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## Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Vice Chair  
General Government & Agency Review  
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs  
Ways & Means  
Coal Technical Advisory Committee

# Tim Schaffer

## State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District

### Senate Judiciary Committee Senate Bill 175 — Sponsor Testimony Wednesday October 2, 2019

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 175.

Senate Bill 175 fixes an important loophole that will help protect local non-profit organizations around the state.

Current law provides civil immunity from liability to certain persons who are involved in a defensive shooting at an employer. This bill simply extends that protection to organizations that have "volunteers, members or officers" who might also someday be involved in a defensive shooting--most likely nonprofit corporations like churches.

Take churches for example. By my interpretation of the Revised Code, if the minister were to defend his or her congregation using a concealed firearm against an intruder intending harm, the minister and the church would have immunity against unreasonable liability. But if an usher or trustee (non-employee) were to also shoot the perpetrator, there would be no liability protections.

The concept for this legislation was brought to my attention by a constituent who wants to close the loophole in current law for his church. My constituent's church has members who carry concealed as a part of their highly-structured defensive protection plan.

Senate Bill 175 **does not** expand concealed carry rights or locations. But it will go a long way to protect the innocent organizations and their members, volunteers and officers who have no ill intent and are trying to do the right thing.

Thank you once again, Chairman Eklund and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this issue to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.