

Dear Chair Shane Wilkin and Committee Members;

I am a citizen of Ohio; a gun owner; a combat vet (Vietnam); and an attorney. Even more important than the foregoing I am concerned and hopeful that my generation will leave at least the freedoms we have enjoyed to our children and grandchildren. One of those freedoms is and has been the right to keep and bear arms. At the present that freedom is restricted here in Ohio as we must have a license to carry a handgun in a concealed fashion. This is counter to one of our most basic and important freedoms which is found in the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution and in the Ohio Constitution which says "The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power." The right of Ohioans is found in article I.04 entitled Bearing arms; standing armies; military powers (1851). Note that it dates from 1851 some 170 years ago!

I have my CHL (concealed handgun license) as I am a law abiding citizen but neither the law nor the license make me law abiding and if no license were required I would not become a law breaker. Requiring me to have a license to exercise my right to bear arms is, in my mind, and should be in your mind the same as having to have a license to vote. There is a recent Decision by a Federal District Judge in California regarding the California Assault Weapon Ban. That Judge is being criticized for both his Decision and a comment about a Swiss Army Knife. If at all possible please take the time and read the quote below to see what the Judge really said on that subject: (the AR-15 and the Swiss Army Knife):

"Like the Swiss Army Knife, the popular AR-15 rifle is a perfect combination of home defense weapon and homeland defense equipment. Good for both home and battle, the AR-15 is the kind of versatile gun that lies at the intersection of the kinds of firearms protected under *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) and *United States v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 174 (1939). Yet, the State of California makes it a crime to have an AR-15 type rifle. Therefore, this Court declares the California statutes to be unconstitutional."

Yes, I fully support constitutional carry in Ohio and hope that you will also. Yes, not having a requirement for a CHL will cost Sheriff's money as well as those who are in the business of certifying people for their CHL after charging sometimes hundreds of dollars. For my final plea and argument in favor of HB 227 i again turn the the Judge from California who said:

"There is only one policy enshrined in the Bill of Rights. Guns and ammunition in the hands of criminals, tyrants and terrorists are dangerous; guns in the hands of law-abiding responsible citizens are better. To give full life to the core right of self-defense, every law-abiding responsible individual citizen has a constitutionally protected right to keep and bear firearms commonly owned and kept for lawful purposes. In early America and today, the Second Amendment right of self-preservation permits a citizen to "'repel force by force' when 'the intervention of society in his behalf, may be too late to prevent that injury.'" *Heller*, 554 U.S., at 594. Then, as now, the Second Amendment "may be considered as the true palladium of liberty." *Id.* at 606 (citation omitted). Unfortunately, governments tend to restrict the right of self-defense.

“[I]n most governments it has been the study of rulers to confine the right within the narrowest limits possible.” *Id.* (citation omitted). Fortunately, no legislature has the constitutional authority to dictate to a good citizen that he or she may not acquire a modern and popular gun for self-defense.

The Court does not lightly enjoin a state statute. However, while the Court is mindful that government has a legitimate interest in protecting the public from gun violence, it is equally mindful that the Constitution remains a shield from the tyranny of the majority. As Senator Edward Kennedy said, “[t]he judiciary is – and is often the only – protector of individual rights that are at the heart of our democracy.” Law-abiding citizens are imbued with the unalienable right to keep and bear modern firearms.”

Thank you for your time and attention and it is earnest wish and hope that you and the members of your committee will support HB 227 and eventually it will become the "law of the land" here in Ohio.

David G. Hasselback