

Shane Wilkin and Committee members ,

I live in Monroe county Ohio and have been a resident of Ohio 95% of my life . I am also a survivor of domestic violence .Where I live emergency help is not quick or speedy ,not due to any fault of our sheriff's but due to a very rural county .I stand for constitutional carry because under our constitution we have the right to keep and bare arms ,in Ohio we have open carry which me and my family do daily on our rural farm .It is time for our reps to stand up for law abiding citizens and give us the right that God has given us to defend our life if necessary .Carrying a fire arm as a law abiding citizens is also one of the best deterrents to crime there is .Criminals like unarmed citizens as there is almost nothing they can do to prevent the crime or deaths of innocent people .However if the walk into a place and several people are obviously carrying a fire arm they are more likely to rethink doing a shooting or crime .Years ago shortly after we moved here to our current residence there was a poaching ring ,they shot a deer in front of our house around 4 am .My husband went out with his rifle that had a light on it and watched ,they grabbed a wire saw and came back into the field to cut the rack off .My husband lit them up with his light the guy ran back to the car and they took off .we called the sheriff and the game warden ,while waiting for them my husband went and used a stick to pick up their spent casings . The law officers came and my husband advised he had his fire arm on,and he was going to make it safe which he did and set it on our table .The officer took their report and advised us to keep in touch with the game warden til they found them .All day the guys who had poached drove by our farm telling threatening statements and showing a gun .My husband wore his where it could be seen ,we called the game warden each time ,late that night they finally found them and arrested them eventually they were charged .The moral of that story is they knew we were armed ,calling the police when it can take them 20 minutes to an hour to get to you means you need to be prepared to protect yourself .The best way to stop a shooting is for the criminal to see others are armed and not an unarmed victim .Give us the constitutional right as law abiding citizens to carry .Law abiding citizens have no intention of hurting anyone ,everyone I know who carries prays they never have to pull that trigger . But I have the right to carry and defend myself or my family if I'm placed in a situation where I'm forced to by someone who would kill me to get what they want . End the war in law abiding citizens there are millions of us that never kill anyone ,we shouldn't be treated like criminals who don't value human life . Thank you

Shelly A Meisel

Monroe county Ohio resident for constitutional carry