

Chair Shane Wilkin and the Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony for the official record.

Ohio needs to move Constitutional (permit less) Carry to the House Floor for a full vote. You'll hear testimony from those against this bill claiming things like it will be the Wild West, and rivers of blood will flow in the streets if this legislation is passed, but it is all a lie. Twenty-one states have Constitutional Carry on their books, and none of those predictions have come true. Vermont has had Constitutional Carry for its entirety of time as a state and it is not like that there. The same things were said when the Ohio Legislature made Permitted Concealed Carry legal in Ohio, and those predictions never came true. It was also said when the Ohio Legislature put Stand Your Ground on our books, and once again it hasn't come true.

Constitutional Carry won't make it legal for felons to carry guns, that's another lie the anti-rights groups funded by the likes of Michael Bloomberg will tell you. The fact is, felons and other criminals don't care what laws are on the books, that is what makes them criminals in the first place. If they don't care about long prison terms or even the Death Penalty for serious crimes, they definitely do not care about what firearm laws they break along the way.

However, plenty of good people don't have an Ohio Concealed Handgun License for various reasons. Be it time and money to take the training classes, having someone to watch their children to do so, the cost of the license itself, ability to get to a Sheriff's office to apply and get the license, or not wanting to be put in a database that can be hacked and made public, they are all reasons their right to bear arms is being denied.

You have County Sheriff offices such as Cuyahoga which has been sued multiple times for not following the Ohio Revised Code on issuing these licenses, and find any way to get away with not issuing them if at all possible.

Anyone who can legally own a firearm should not have to ask the local and state governments for permission to carry that firearm concealed on their person for their own self protection. You don't need a permit to open carry in Ohio, you shouldn't need one to conceal carry either.

This would help many people, especially those on the lower income side of things, to be able to protect themselves when they're outside of their home which is where they are most likely to come in contact with someone wanting to do them harm.

Pass Constitutional Carry to the House Floor with a recommendation of pass, and then vote for it's passage on the House Floor too.

Sincerely,
Thomas Hanlon
Cleveland, Ohio