



February 17, 2022

Good morning, Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, ranking member Brown and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. I testify in support of S.B. 185.

S.B. 185 is substantially similar to H.B. 325 which was favorably reported out of this committee last week. The point of this bill is to protect the right to self-defense by protecting the right to keep and bear arms. One notable difference is that this bill does not deal with sale or transport of dynamite or dangerous explosives.

S.B. 185 makes permanent several policies that were temporarily enacted last session during the COVID pandemic. Looking at problems in other states and not knowing what issues we will face in the years ahead, enacting this legislation is a proactive step to prevent crisis during a future emergency. It is excellent public policy.

Because this bill does mention “firearms” some want to classify it as a “gun bill.” It is much more as it included knives and bows and anything that could be used in a deadly force encounter. We should not care how someone defends innocent life – we should care that everyone has the opportunity to defend their life and the lives of those close to them by whatever means works best for them. This bill protects that right.

This legislation as an important protection of our Constitutional rights that some wanted to suppress or trample under the guise of “Emergency Powers.”

**Article I: Bill of Rights**

*Bearing arms; standing armies; military power.*

§4 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. (1851)

Certainly, as Chairman of the A1S4 Protection PAC, named for this statement of rights enumerated in the Ohio Constitution, like our forefathers, I view this inalienable right as essential to protecting life and everything we hold dear.

I urge a yes vote on S.B. 185

Respectfully submitted,

James Irvine  
A1§4 Protection PAC

jim@irvine1.com  
440-503-3011

Jim Irvine is an advocate for liberty, people’s right to bear arms and self-defense. He serves on the Board of Directors of Second Amendment Foundation and Buckeye Firearms Foundation.