

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Institute for Legislative Action**

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**NRA**

February 16, 2022

Chairman Wilkin and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee:

My name is John Weber and I represent the National Rifle Association. The NRA fully supports SB 185 and applauds Senator Schaffer for its introduction in the Senate.

Senate Bill 185 will protect the rights of Ohioans by declaring firearm possession, transportation, carrying, commerce, training range access, as well as hunting and fishing to be life sustaining, essential activities. Both local and state government authorities are prohibited from infringing upon these rights under the guise of a declared emergency, either on a local or state level. Further, the legislation provides legal recourse for people who experience unjust infringements on these essential rights.

In the last year, Americans have experienced politicians trying to shut down firearm stores, criminals being set free from prison and police departments defunded across the nation. This all happened in the midst of a pandemic, a lockdown and widespread rioting. People felt vulnerable. Many realized their safety was ultimately in their own hands and they reacted by going out and purchasing firearms. Later in the year, an anti-gun president was elected and gun owners instinctively knew their rights were soon to be restricted.

This past year has reminded gun owners the Second Amendment is their best means of keeping themselves and their loved ones safe. They have also been reminded that there are very powerful individuals and bodies that would like to abolish that right and now, more than ever, they must fight to protect it. Politicians should not ever have the right to take away an individual's best means for self-defense — especially during difficult times. After more than a year of constantly evolving mandates and restrictions, often implemented without the consultation of the legislature, the time for this bill is now.

This is an essential bill, recognizing that firearm possession, transportation, carrying, commerce, training range access, as well as hunting and fishing are life sustaining, essential activities. SB 185 will ensure that law-abiding citizens have the right to self-defense, and the right to sustain themselves, when they need them the most.

Thank you,

NRA-ILA State Director