



November 17, 2022

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. I submit opposition testimony for H.B. 383

While I fully support the concept of locking up violent criminals, I oppose this legislation because shifts the focus from criminal actions to inanimate objects.

Criminal law should focus on the actions and intentions of individuals, not one of many objects they might possess.

H.B. 383 makes the mistake of targeting an object (a gun) rather than criminal acts. The carrying of a gun is not wrong. It is the use of a gun, or a knife, or a hammer or other blunt object, or hands/fists to commit violent crime that is wrong. This bill treats firearms different than all other object that are used to commit crime. That is “anti-gun”, not “anti-crime.” It is not good public policy.

Approximately 10 years ago, then Attorney General Mike DeWine worked with The Ohio State University to study in depth violent crime in Ohio. The finding was that less than 2% of the population commits over 50% of the violent crime. Clearly, these are the people we should be targeting with strict enforcement and extended prison sentences. Again, focus on the criminal, not the objects they possess.

If the concern is people shooting other people, or threatening other people, or in any way committing violent crime against other people, then those people should be prosecuted with the plethora of laws already on the books for those crimes. The inability of the state to enforce the laws currently on the books is never a proper justification for more laws that can be used against other people.

Respectfully submitted

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