



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

H.B. 89

Written Testimony

Chief Bruce Pijanowski, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. I am Bruce Pijanowski, the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Thank you for the opportunity to present you with the concerns of Police Chiefs across the state with the proposed modifications to the duty to notify contained in HB 89.

The duty to notify an officer on a traffic stop of the presence of a firearm being legally carried establishes the lawful intent of the owner and alleviates any uncertainty in the stop should the officer see a weapon. By reducing the requirement, this amendment could serve to create the tense situations that have led to an erosion of the public's trust in law enforcement.

At a time where we are asking law enforcement to deescalate and where the demands for reform are being heard loud and clear, why would we legislatively create a situation that could result in escalation?

I can assure you that there are hundreds of stops that occur where the possession of the firearm is a passing comment, with no further discussion, agitation or conflict. This is how it should be. Persons legally carrying a firearm should have no concern with articulating that fact to law enforcement. Law Enforcement is a proponent of the Second Amendment, and a proponent of officer safety. The two do not have to be exclusive of each other. I am sure that there are situations you will be made aware of that counter this argument, but they are the exception, not the general practice.

We also understand the concern with the penalty being too harsh, but do not think completely eliminating the penalties is appropriate. A reduction is not necessarily a problem for OACP, but there still must be a level of appropriateness to the violation to support the responsibilities one has with carrying a firearm.

OACP and law enforcement are not interested in infringing on second amendment rights, but we do ask that you carefully consider the interactions that may be the outcome of this legislation and if that is an outcome that is acceptable.

Thank you for considering our concerns.