

SB 357

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While we all want safer communities, not all of us see the same path toward getting there.

Senate Bill 357 has several concerning segments – with each having the ability to be taken separately – and for them to be considered under the 2022 US Supreme Court case Bruin -vs- New York Rifle and Pistol association. The Bruin Case – as its called - In June of 2022 Clarence Thomas and the Supreme Court put forth a decision that in part says ‘Must meet the Text, History and Tradition of US Gun Laws as of 1791.

Several of these segments do not meet the standard that we should all expect new bills and laws to hold.

Lets discuss several points that I find especially egregious.

The segment of the bill involving 18-21 year olds and the thought that they need a secondary additional adult to sign for them. To sign for them. Sign what? A Potential liability form. 1) these are adults in all definition of the word. They can join the army, they can attend the police academy, they can vote and they can get married. Why can they not purchase a tool for sport, hunting or self defense. And WHY should they be required to have someone vouch for them. 2) if you are the person signing the potential liability form, what liability are you accepting?

In talking to the legal team at Second Amendment Foundation, they will immediately file a lawsuit against Ohio for this. Do your homework, why involve the state in something that is not constitutional. There are lawsuits that are winning – on the Second Amendment, freedom side – in California, Florida and several other states right this minute.

Then we can move on to the section where there will be additional questioning for persons from under served communities. The question of SNAP, Cash or government Medical assistance. What is the purpose of this? To state that if you are accepting assistance, you cannot participate in a constitutional right? You cannot defend your family? Where and how does anyone think this is reasonable? Acceptable? Conscionable? I can only assume that some correlation is being drawn toward government assistance and breaking the law?

There is more to this bill that is also unacceptable. But I am not sure that it even warrants going into. If what I have listed above does not sway you to pull it back, put a legal team on it and start over – nothing else I can say will.

I ask that Ohio lead the way, not lead us astray. Good ideas on paper, good intentions without thought of the end results can only lead us further down the path of crazy laws, the inability of the Ohio citizens to follow those laws and the further decline of the general rule of law.

I want to end with – Ohio, we are better than this. There are programs in place where Ohio is leading the way. Teaching other states how to have safer communities, how to interact with our next generation of leaders. Lets start with respecting them and treating them like adults. Lets punish them WHEN and IF they break the laws, not add steps and stumbles to trip them up on the way.

I am a member of a group titled The DC Project and we stand for Education not Legislation. This bill, and others like it across the country is the reason we exist. We will continue to work to educate legislators on the laws that are working and those that are leading our states down the courtroom path.

Thank you.