



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

Greetings Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Heinz von Eckartsberg, the retired Chief of Police in Dublin, and former Assistant Superintendent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, representing the membership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Thank you for the opportunity to present our concerns with Senate Bill 357.

Our concerns with the most recent version of this bill can be summarized as follows:

1. We are concerned that the backbone of the original legislation, the Safety Protection Order (SPO) provision, has been removed. We believe that to effectively respond to persons who have displayed threatening behavior and have been determined medically and/or by the courts to be a threat due to their mental illness, law enforcement needs a legal mechanism by which they can recover a firearm or firearms from someone who is in possession of those weapons illegally.

This provision did not create a new disability for the possession of firearms. It simply provided an avenue where law enforcement could remove firearms from someone who is in possession of those weapons illegally, and who has demonstrated a threat to themselves or others.

2. We also have concerns with the new provision in the latest version of the bill which creates an additional firearms disability for persons who have been determined through a “behavioral risk assessment” to be a threat to the community. Our concerns are two-fold:
 - a. First, we don’t see how this provision will prevent a person from using firearms they already possess to commit a criminal action.
 - b. Secondly, we are concerned with the civil liberty implications of a “behavioral risk assessment” that creates a disability without a medical or judicial determination first.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present our association’s concerns with this legislation.