

Testimony on House Bill 186
Ways and Means Committee
September 26, 2023
Submitted by William T. Koltek

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

I am a 35-year Ohio resident and voter. I am also a senior citizen.

My support for HB 186 stems from a desire for myself and my family to live in an increasingly dangerous world with as little fear as possible. Unsecured firearms are responsible for numerous accidental and unintentional shootings every year. Many of the victims of such incidents are children, though people of any age could find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Secure storage of firearms will reduce the likelihood of unintentional shootings. Exempting safety devices from sales taxes, by reducing the total cost to users, will provide an incentive for more gun owners to buy and use them. Without impinging on the freedom of Ohioans to own firearms, encouraging gun owners to buy and use safety devices should result in fewer accidental deaths and injuries. Please support HB 186.