



Madame Chair, members of the House Public Safety Committee, I am Rob Sexton, Legislative Affairs Director for Buckeye Firearms Association. BFA is Ohio's premier defender of the Second Amendment. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 68 because it addresses two priorities of the Second Amendment Community.

It has been a longtime conviction of BFA that the state should limit the number of places where law abiding people are able to carry a firearm to only those that are truly necessary. BFA has worked consistently over the last 20 years toward the full realization of the rights guaranteed by both the Ohio and US Constitutions. House Bill 68 would allow local governments to enact ordinances permitting people to carry in government buildings that share space with a courtroom, as long as the court is not in session.

Multi-use government buildings are common in Ohio, especially in the more rural and suburban areas of the state that don't have the large government campuses. When courtrooms and mayor's courts share space with deputy registrars/title bureaus etc. Government should seek to eliminate soft targets that leave people vulnerable or force them to leave firearms in their cars to comply with the law. This portion of HB 68 puts this decision in the hands of local officials who can determine the practicality of this approach in relation to their court facilities.

House Bill 68 also addresses one of BFA's longstanding priorities. The framers of our Constitutions did not envision a lifetime of lost Constitutional protections for low level offenses. But that is what takes place in Ohio. Current law leaves people who are fully rehabilitated defenseless in their own homes, if they are to remain law abiding. That's a choice our laws

should not force. HB 68 provides a practical approach to Ohio's restoration provisions for those who have paid their debt to society and live clean and productive lives, who often live in areas of the state where self defense and the defense of family is of greater concern.

We ask this committee to consider both of these Second Amendment priorities as vote to send this bill to the full House for consideration. Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.