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Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 235

**Ohio Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety
Committee**

November 5th, 2025

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the **Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety Committee**, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on **Senate Bill 235**, legislation that would prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale, transfer, or possession of trigger cranks, bump stocks, and similar devices that dramatically increase a firearm's rate of fire without converting it into an automatic weapon.

I'm proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan bill alongside my joint sponsor, Senator Smith. Together, we believe this legislation strikes a responsible balance, protecting public safety while respecting the rights of lawful gun owners.

Bump stocks and trigger cranks enable semi-automatic weapons to fire at speeds comparable to machine guns. On October 1, 2017, the nation witnessed the devastating impact of such a device during the Las Vegas shooting, the deadliest mass shooting in our nation's history, where more than 1,000 rounds were fired in just 11 minutes, killing nearly 60 people and injuring hundreds more. Machine guns have been illegal since 1986. If we agree they have no place in our communities, then accessories designed to make firearms act like them should be illegal as well.

This legislation is not about infringing on rights, it's about **saving lives**. It's about **curbing gun violence, protecting law enforcement**, and ensuring **Ohio families can feel safe** in their neighborhoods, schools, and places of worship.

States across the country, both Republican- and Democratic-led, have already taken this step. Even at the federal level, there has been bipartisan support for banning bump stocks, including a 2018 executive order issued under President Trump. **This is a public safety issue, not a partisan one.**

Senate Bill 235 reaffirms that Ohio prioritizes the safety of its citizens. We cannot prevent every tragedy, but we can take meaningful, responsible steps to reduce the risk of mass violence and keep dangerous devices out of our communities.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 235 and would be happy to answer any questions.