Hearcel F. Craig
Assistant Minority Leader
15th Senate District

Ohio Senate Bill 237
Sponsor Testimony
Ohio Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee
June 9th, 2026

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on the Restore Local Authority to Regulate Firearms and Knives Act. I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation with Senator Ingram.

Ohio is home to a diverse range of communities, from major metropolitan areas to small towns and rural townships. Each community faces unique public safety challenges and has distinct priorities when it comes to protecting residents. However, current state law imposes a one-size-fits-all approach that prevents local governments from enacting or enforcing their own regulations related to firearms and knives, regardless of the needs or concerns of their communities.

This bill does not create any new statewide restrictions, nor does it require local governments to adopt new ordinances. Rather, it simply restores decision-making authority to local communities. If local leaders determine that existing state laws are sufficient, they may choose to take no action. If they identify public safety concerns that warrant additional measures, they will have the ability to pursue solutions tailored to their communities.

I am grateful to Senator Ingram for her partnership on this legislation and to the committee for your thoughtful consideration. I respectfully ask for your support and would be happy to answer any questions.

Ohio Senate| 1 Capitol Square Columbus, OH 43215 | (614) 466-5131 | Craig@ohiosenate.gov

PRINTED IN-HOUSE