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State Senator

14th Senate District



Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 278

Local Government Committee

October 15th, 2025

Chairwoman O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 278.

This legislation will allow citizens to seek punitive or exemplary damages against municipalities who enact unconstitutional gun control. As it stands today in Ohio, it is left to the responsibility of our citizens to challenge and repeal these detestable restrictions, often through the judicial process, and unfortunately out of their own pockets. Our citizens should feel emboldened if they are to overturn these unlawful regulations, without having to face the financial burden for doing what is right.

I believe strongly in home rule. Small local government is at the heart of our republic and the American tradition. However, the line must be drawn at anything which violates the constitution, the enshrining document which supersedes all else within our country. Rights like freedom of speech or due process are seldom tampered with by our municipalities. Yet, we often find the Second Amendment under constant threat by these local ordinances or rules.

The examples are concerning and numerous. Back in 2022, the Columbus City Council passed Ordinance 3176-2022,¹ then in 2023 Ordinance 0680-2023.² Both of which are still being fought in the courts and should justly be found unlawful, citing Ohio's Firearms Uniformity Law, with the Ohio Supreme Court already affirming that it does not violate the home rule portion of the Ohio Constitution.³ There is currently nothing preventing these municipalities from continually running this gauntlet and restricting the right of our citizens.

With this legislation, it is my hope that we impose potential financial repercussions for these cities who so frivolously trample on the rights of their residents. We should allow vigilant defenders of freedom to go through the proper judicial process while simultaneously having financial protections for doing so, through the pursuit of punitive or exemplary damages.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify on behalf of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

¹ [Ordinance 3176-2022](#)

² [Ordinance 0680-2023](#)

³ [Doe v. City of Columbus, The Buckeye Institute, 2024](#)