

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF PATRICIA E. AND LOUIS A. WILLIAMS, JR.,
CINCINNATI, OHIO, IN FAVOR OF H. B. 20

MAY 13, 2015

Chairman Maag and members of the House State Government Committee. We ask you to support H. B. 20.

Both of us have been NRA Certified Instructors for about fourteen years. We are not lawyers. Since Ohio started issuing CHLs in April 2004, we have had discussions with students, friends of students and friends of ours about whether and how to carry in a school zone. The changes proposed in H. B. 20 should eliminate much of the confusion on this topic.

The federal Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 prohibits firearms within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a school. Under fairly broad conditions this restriction does not apply to CHL licensees who are licensed in the state where the school is located. The state may impose other restrictions.

In Ohio the consensus seems to be that a holder of a CHL may carry a concealed firearm into a school safety zone if he or she avoids school buildings, school premises, and school activities. He or she may be in a motor vehicle and must be immediately in the process of picking up or dropping off a child.

H. B. 20 redefines the purpose of the current law, namely, that when an armed concealed handgun licensee in a vehicle leaves his or her vehicle while in the process of picking up or dropping off a person or item while in a school safety zone the firearm must remain locked in the vehicle. H. B. 20 prohibits an armed CHL licensee from walking up to the school door with his or her child from their house down the street.

We would prefer to eliminate restrictions on CHL licensees in school zones but in the absence of that the changes proposed by H. B. 20 are helpful. We ask for your favorable vote on H.B. 20. Thank you.