

June 20, 2017

Representative Roegner, members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, my name is Gary Witt and I am a legislative coordinator with Ohioans for Concealed Carry. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 233.

One of the committee members, during sponsor testimony, asked Rep. Becker if this bill should be called the "I forgot" bill. That's a fair question. In this age of constant communication with bosses, wives, kids, a constant barrage of e-mail and other electronic distractions, how easy would it be to forget to disarm and leave your gun in your car before entering a courthouse? It's pretty darn easy. It happened to me. This, under existing law, is a felony 5. Is it proper to punish a CHL holder, one who has applied for a CHL and paid the appropriate fees, had a background check, been finger printed and photographed, the same as the court would punish a person for breaking and entering? B&E is also a felony of the fifth degree.

Should a CHL holder be subjected to the same penalties as one who intentionally shoplifts merchandise valued under \$1,000 and is guilty of petty theft? Both are misdemeanors of the first degree and both individuals are subject to the same penalties.

We applaud Rep. Becker for taking action in this bill to make a vital correction clarifying an oversight from 131st General Assembly regarding government facilities (lines 1278-1282 of the Sub HB).

HB 233 is a needed improvement in fairness and clarification to the Ohio Revised Code. Thank you for your attention. I will answer any questions you may have to the best of my ability.