

DOUG DEEKEN, DIRECTOR
OHIOANS FOR CONCEALED CARRY
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY ON SB 180

Chair Bacon, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Doug Deeken and I am a Director of Ohioans for Concealed Carry (OFCC). I wish to testify in favor of SB 180.

OFCC has long sought the changes that SB 180 addresses.

First, let me say that the duty to retreat is a legal trap that must be eliminated. It is a sad fact that in Ohio under current law someone can be attacked on the streets and then victimized again in court for not running away fast enough. A split second life or death decision gets to be reconsidered in the comfort of a lawyer's office for weeks and months afterwards. That's grossly unfair to the original victim of the criminal attack, regardless of which level of force might be used to preserve their life.

Additionally, most states do not require a duty to retreat for a valid self-defense claim to be offered. Ohio's current law is thus outside of the American mainstream. Any concerns can be allayed by looking to the experience of most other states of the union.

Certainly, the opponents of this needed reform and standardization with most other states will forecast all sorts of gloom & doom if SB180 passes. They will claim that blood will flow freely in the streets and Ohio will become the "Wild West." They made the same claim when we passed Castle Doctrine. They made the same claim when we passed Restaurant Carry. They made the same claim when we passed Statewide Preemption. They made the same claim when we first passed HB12 all those years ago and became a "Shall Issue" concealed carry state. They have been wrong every single time and I submit they continue to be wrong.

Again, Chair Bacon and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.