

Testimony in Favor of HB227, Constitutional Carry, Addressed to Chair Shane Wilkin and the committee.

To whom it may concern,

my name is Shane Pennachio and I'm writing this testimony in Favor of HB227, Constitutional Carry. I'd like to apologize for not being able to give this testimony in person, if I could be there please believe that I would be. I strongly urge that the committee send this bill to the floor for a vote and I urge you all to vote yes on this bill. There are a few reasons this bill is so important to me and so many other Ohioans. I'll start with the fact that this bill ONLY protects law abiding gun owners, criminals do and will obtain weapons and they will conceal them regardless of the law. Everyone would still have to pass the Federal NICS check, and weapons disabled people would still be in violation of the law. Now the reason this bill is so important to me personally is because even though I am not weapons disabled and I can legally own firearms, I can't obtain an Ohio CHL (Concealed Handgun License) because of a minor criminal charge from years ago. How is it that these laws do not match? It makes zero sense that I can legally own firearms, I can legally open carry said firearms in the state of Ohio, but I can't get a license to conceal carry. I admit I made a mistake or two when I was younger but I'm certainly not a criminal. If I was I wouldn't be writing this letter because the law wouldn't be important to me right. Gun control advocates can say what they want but states with Constitutional Carry actually have LOWER crime rates, the statistics speak for themselves. Regardless, if I can legally own a firearm I should be able to protect myself and my family with said firearm, and I shouldn't have to open myself up to the potential consequences of open carry in order to do it. If you search for "Open Carry Harassment Ohio" on YouTube you will see that a lot of our own police officers do not know the law when it comes to open carry. It's also ridiculous that open carriers have to unload their weapons and separate it from their ammo in vehicles. When you look at all these things together you see that open carry really isn't a viable option and you see where the only logical thing to do is to change these laws. I also shouldn't have to pay a ton of ridiculous legal fees to get back a right I really never even lost. I'm not a convicted or even an accused felon. The reason I wish to legally own and carry firearms is because my fiancée was once attacked by an armed assailant and I promised that I would never let anything happen to her or our daughter. Restricting law abiding citizens is not the answer to gun violence no matter what Karen's Take Action wants you to believe. Mind you that statement is from someone who's had family not only attacked but also killed by armed criminals. I'm sorry to tell you but going after law abiding gun owners isn't going to stop criminals, just like the war on drugs that didn't solve anything. Over 20 states have legal Constitutional Carry, many of them passing measures this year! Texas just passed their Constitutional Carry bill last month. It's time for Ohio to follow suite. I beg you all to stop stalling this bill and send it to the floor for a vote. If certain people don't want to or feel for some reason they're important enough that they "shouldn't" have to vote on this issue well, sorry about your luck but this is the job that WE voted you in to do. I will end by saying this, this issue is not going anywhere. We will keep fighting for our rights, a right we shouldn't have to beg for to begin with, and if our current elected officials don't want to take action on the matter then we will vote for others who will take on the issue. I mean no disrespect, but we didn't vote in a Republican Super Majority so things can remain the same. Ohio is the reddest of Red states and we need to lead by example and protect the Second Amendment and the rights that come with it NOW!!! Thank you for your time, I hope you all make the right decision.

Sincerely,
Shane Pennachio