

October 13, 2021

To Chairman Wilkin and the members of the Government Oversight committee:

My name is Steve Olander of North Olmsted, Ohio. I want to let this committee know that I am very concerned about every one of our Constitutional rights. Today we are talking about whether or not a person should have a license to exercise their Second Amendment right to "bear arms," as stated as an inalienable right in our Nation's Constitution. HB227 is a bill that assures our Constitutional right to bear arms is "not infringed," as our founding fathers intended.

I do not believe anyone here could fathom a license requirement to exercise any other inalienable right. Should there be a license to exercise our First Amendment right? Should a license and background check be required before you do any public speaking? Before you write an editorial to send to a newspaper? Before going in front of or writing to a Government Committee to testify? This notion would be unfathomable.

However, with our Second Amendment there are requirements placed on the ability to exercise that right as well as the ways in which it is exercised. For a Government to be able to do this with one right sets precedent to be able to do it with all of them. No right is "more or less of a right" than any other right. One of my fears is that if HB227 is not passed that the door is open to restrict Ohio citizen's other Constitutional rights by putting requirements on the exercising of any other right.

When I first heard of this bill I was concerned that the notion of people carrying guns without training could present problems with the misuse of firearms and misjudgment as to when it is legal to use a firearm for self-defense. Then I did my own research and learned that, at that time, there were already 20 States that had Constitutional Carry, yet there were no wide-spread problems if misuse among law abiding citizens.

Further, since my focus was now on this subject, I became very concerned when I realized our current laws in this State in regards to concealed carrying are an infringement on our Second Amendment right. No one here, or anywhere else in this nation, should accept a license requirement to exercise an inalienable right, protected by the Constitution of the United States of America.

For these reasons, I cannot see how anyone who has sworn an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution could refrain from moving forward on this legislation, HB227, and seeing it through to becoming law. It almost sounds incredible that I am a proponent for a bill that seeks to remove an infringement on one of our rights. No right should be infringed by anyone, ever, yet that is exactly what the current state

of law in Ohio does. HB227 should be a high priority. Any time the rights of citizens are being violated by government it should be of the highest priority to correct the situation. I hope this committee feels the same way and holds the rights of the people in as high regard as I do, and chooses to remove the infringement of the Second Amendment from the residents of Ohio, and strive in every way possible to see HB227 made into law.

Sincerely,
Steve Olander