

House Government Oversight Committee
October 13, 2021

Testimony on HB227
Submitted by:
Arthur Pfaelzer

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and committee members:

My name is Arthur Pfaelzer

I have been living in Cleveland Heights since January 2021, having moved from Massachusetts. I am retired, but now producing television shows helping people with disabilities to speak out on their disabilities. My show "living today" is shown locally on Verizon and Comcast in the Boston area.

I have always been a strong advocate of owning firearms, I have had a Massachusetts license to carry for over 40 years with no issues.

I have never had any difficulty renewing my license in spite of the Massachusetts laws. One of the most restrictive states.

When reviewing House Bill 227 I have a very strong opinion about the issue of people being allowed to carry concealed handguns without licensing. It's like allowing people to drive an automobile without a license.

My personal opinion is that most people are safer not carrying a concealed weapon. And certainly not without significant training.

Training should include safe handling, safe storage, live firing, and extensive instruction of when a handgun can be used in self defense,

I have read many cases where the user has been arrested and tried for this issue. You can not just point a gun and fire unless you are in clear and present jeopardy of your life (Mass.)

You may have only a few seconds to make that decision and how could you decide without adequate training—even then it may be a very difficult decision.

You could be arrested and tried, possibly found guilty and sentenced to prison.

Also, you need live training as part of your overall training to have competence and safety in handling and firing the weapon.

There should also be a requirement for safe storage. In Massachusetts, a firearm must be locked in a container (safe).

I hold a commercial pilot's license with multi engine instrument rating
Extensive and recurrent training is required

I have experienced many of the issues that can come up in training in a simulator like one engine out - recovery

And the incredible stress it can put on you to act properly I think is not different from the decision to fire a gun with no warning
You have to be trained to recover to execute properly.

This bill's passage would make Ohio a less safe place to live