

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

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**NRA**

October 13, 2021

House Government Oversight Committee

1 Capitol Square

Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Wilkin and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee:

My name is John Weber and I represent the National Rifle Association. The NRA fully supports HB 325 and applauds Representative Wiggam for its introduction in the House.

House Bill 325 will protect the rights of Ohioans by declaring firearm possession, transportation, carrying, commerce, training range access, as well as hunting and fishing to be life sustaining, essential activities. Both local and state government authorities are prohibited from infringing upon these rights under the guise of a declared emergency, either on a local or state level. Further, the legislation provides legal recourse for people who experience unjust infringements on these essential rights.

The bill defines these rights as essential, and life sustaining and prevents both local and state government from infringing on these rights during a declared emergency. It protects firearms commerce, concealed carry license processing, firearms training, access to firearms ranges as well as hunting and fishing businesses.

In the last year, Americans have experienced politicians trying to shut down firearm stores, criminals being set free from prison and police departments defunded across the nation. This all happened in the midst of a pandemic, a lockdown and widespread rioting. People felt vulnerable. Many realized their safety was ultimately in their own hands and they reacted by going out and purchasing firearms. Later in the year, an anti-gun president was elected and gun owners instinctively knew their rights were soon to be restricted.

This past year has reminded gun owners the Second Amendment is their best means of keeping themselves and their loved ones safe. They have also been reminded that there are very powerful individuals and bodies that would like to abolish that right and now, more than ever, they must fight to protect it. Politicians should not ever have the right to take away an individual's best means for self-defense — especially during difficult times. That's why the NRA worked so hard to make this essential bill a reality.

This is an essential bill, recognizing that firearm possession, transportation, carrying, commerce, training range access, as well as hunting and fishing are life sustaining, essential activities. HB 325 will ensure that law-abiding citizens have the right to self-defense, and the right to sustain themselves, when they need them the most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Weber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Weber  
State Director  
NRA-ILA