



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

H.B. 227
Testimony in Opposition
Chief Bruce Pijanowski, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. I am Bruce Pijanowski, the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware, representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Thank you for the opportunity to present you with the concerns of Police Chiefs across the state regarding the elimination of the concealed carry license contained in HB 227.

HB 227 eliminates the current concealed handgun license system and creates an optional concealed weapon license (CWL). There is no provision in this legislation to require any training or education about the responsibilities of carrying concealed weapon, and the sponsors are quite clear that the CWL option is primarily designed for reciprocity purposes. This lack of training and education is a safety concern that could negatively impact gun owners and their communities.

OACP would also submit that permissive firearms laws may not be a sound strategy to combat crime and violence. This is the rallying cry of the gun rights lobby, but until it is supported by scholarly research, there must be a balance between Second Amendment rights, community safety and appropriate regulation. OACP would suggest that there is research available that should be given logical consideration before any legislative change is considered. Before we move to make possibly significant changes, we must acknowledge that the notion that permissive gun laws save lives may not be accurate.

OACP would also like to acknowledge our support of the removal of language repealing the duty to notify in this legislation. While we are sure this is a conversation we will have on another day, we assert that the duty to notify establishes a lawful intent, which reduces escalation during police contacts.

OACP is a proponent of the Second Amendment, and a proponent for safe communities. The two do not have to be exclusive of each other. The legality of regulating firearms laws is incontrovertible. All we ask is that you carefully consider the potential negative impact on our communities and whether those impacts are acceptable in terms of the potential outcomes.

Thank you for considering our concerns.