

## David and Sam Ludtman's Testimony

May 8, 2019

My name is David Ludtman and my son wrote the following testimony, and upon reading it, I couldn't have said it any better. If possible, I'd like to resend his testimony, and would like to ask if my name be admitted in favor of the passage of HB178, the Ohio Constitutional Carry bill. Thank you!

-David Ludtman, Reno, Ohio

Dear House Federalism Committee,

I would like to enter my testimony in favor of House Bill 178 into the official record.

Here is my testimony:

Chairman Becker, Vice Chairman Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller and members of the House Federalism Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on this wonderful legislation, House Bill 178.

Hello, my name is Sam Ludtman and I am a proud Ohio gun owner. Constitutional Carry is important for Ohio. It is important for a free state, a free nation, and a free people.

HB 178 would not only rid Ohio of a myriad of poorly written firearms legalese, it would reinstate the Ohioan right to lawfully carry their firearms, tools by their nature, designed to offer a defense against criminality and tyranny. Tyranny can come at the hands of the common criminal, or as our nations' Founders foretold, the rising power of a government???an elite or an executive wielding wanton and zealous power, often using the same tools, firearms, which our Founders understood to be a necessary ingredient for the people to retain an ultimate safeguard from such power rising again.

To bear arms???the act of possessing, carrying and the judicious use of a weapon as a tool to protect life???is quite American. With little exception, our right to bear arms, which I regard a human right and not just one enumerated in our Bill of Rights, is a very unique right to retain???placed strategically only Second to freedom of speech, the press, and religious choice???because it is that important. The Second enumerated right to bear arms was never meant for the musket, nor hunting. It was placed there to be protected???not granted???as a safeguard to each persons own liberty and freedom, and that of a new nation being born.

Yet, throughout the life of a nation, powers rise up from without and within, to seize more control of the people, for whatever sinister reason.

These people will use tragedy as a guise for ???safety.??? They will use indoctrination as a means to turn young against old. They will even callously misinterpret the Bible to say that governmental power is

absolute and that for our protection as if they know best for each and every one of us that we must relinquish the very right that makes our nation free, for once the Second is gone, all others are thereafter.

It is argued that because guns exist, it is the guns fault that criminals exist. Statistics aside, criminals by their nature do not follow the law. Therefore, logic has it, that the only people actually covered by gun control, permits or licensing, are the very people that criminals target! All the more reason that efforts like HB 178 that would relax laws to allow what we like to call Constitutional Carry, should be installed so as to make Ohio and her people, safer.

For those who worry too much about the problems of others and of the world, it goes without saying that all action in the course of human life, contain risk. Risk is an inherent part of daily life, from even the simplest act of rolling out of bed, making a pot of coffee, to driving two tons of steel and aluminum down a highway. The judicious carry of a firearm is no different, and yet with an obesity epidemic in this country, we don't license people's forks and spoons. It is freedom of choice. The freedom to take risk and the responsibility that comes with it, or to bow down before a nanny state government that thinks it knows best for everyone else.

While guns can be cool, for the vast majority of gun owners, firearms are little more than tools. A common misconception with the left, right and center gun control advocates, guns are not worshiped or "deified" by us gun owners, but, because many people would like to take these invaluable tools away from us, it is inevitable that the gun is unquestionably the center of debate even though, the Second Amendment is not about guns it is about who truly is (supposed) to have the power in America: The People.

That said, as I stated before, Constitutional Carry is important for Ohio. It is important for a free state, a free nation, and a free people.

To be able to lawfully carry a firearm in Ohio, with little restriction, as is the case in neighboring West Virginia and fifteen other states so far, would mean that Ohio is on the right track to handing power back into the hands of the people to entrust people with their own protection, for a destiny made safer for the individual through the means that firearms ownership and carry can provide. It has been said, government is not reason, it is force. To understand such a basic principle and reinstate the Ohioan right to bear arms via HB 178, is a fundamental step toward freedom and liberty, for the individual, for Ohio, and for America.

Thank you and God Bless.

Sincerely,  
Sam Ludtman  
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