

**Ohio Gun Owners**

Ohio’s Grassroots Gun Rights Organization

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 26, 2018

**TO:** Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

**FROM:** Chris Dorr, Director, Ohio Gun Owners

**RE:** Proponent Testimony on SB53

Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Craig and members of this esteemed Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I’m Chris Dorr, the Director for Ohio Gun Owners, and I’m happy to offer our organization’s support for this legislation.

I’d like to thank Senator Roegner for bringing it forward in the first place and by all accounts for treating this issue with the respect and speed that our members and gun owners as a whole across our state believe it deserves.

As I’m sure you’re all well aware via your email boxes, our membership was extremely alarmed that something like this could happen in the first place. The reason why, I believe, is because a lot of gun owners realized for the first time just how easy it is for a legislature to trample a man’s rights if we don’t pay attention!

However, just like my dad always told me, every bad situation is probably a great place to learn a good lesson, and we’ll be using last GA’s HB228 for years to come as a rallying cry for gun owners to get involved in the political process.

But back to the bill, it’s a simple and easy fix to make right a wrong.

I want to keep this short, because I don’t think this is controversial, so I’ll just tell a quick story to illustrate my point here.

As a kid I grew up in the small town of Ocheyedan, Iowa. Ocheyedan seemed to have more than its share of walnut trees and, because we didn’t have Nintendos or smart phones or Netflix, those walnuts always seemed to lead to neighborhood walnut wars. Can you believe that’s what we used to do for fun?

There were a couple of ground rules… first, you couldn’t aim for the head. Second, you couldn’t throw at someone in retreat – you had to be facing them and they had to be facing you!

And sometimes it was me that took one squarely on the chest. Sometimes it was a neighbor kid.

But one time, after someone nailed me fair and square, they tried to retreat but I lurched into my best catcher’s spring – I played catcher in little league – and I planted one right in the middle of their back.

Well, that neighbor kid went home to his parents, who promptly drove their kid back over to our house, and they marched up to the door to talk to my Dad about it.

They talked about it for a few minutes, then they turned around and left.

My dad ended up grilling me with a few questions, I got my butt whipped like I deserved, but then he made me ride my bike all the way across town and go to that kid’s house and apologize to the kid and his dad for what I had done.

Did you all intentionally square up on gun owners and plant one squarely on our chests? Probably not, but that’s what a lot of us felt like.

And I think that this bill right here is the correct way to make right this wrong, so we urge this committee pass it quickly with the emergency clause in it so that it can be put on the Senate floor as quickly as possible. I’d be happy to answer any questions.