

September 16, 2020

RE: Support Senate Bill 360

Good afternoon Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Huffman, ranking member Craig and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. My name is Jim Irvine and I testify today in support of S.B. 360.

We have a God given right to keep and bear arms, which is also enumerated in the Second Amendment and the Ohio Constitution.

In the aftermath of hurricane Katrina in 2005, certain public officials banned the possession and/or sale of firearms. That did nothing to stop the looting, but did prevent law-abiding people from protecting themselves and their family. It also diverted police powers from criminals to honest citizens, thus aiding the criminal element. Books have been written detailing how good people were harmed by these government actions.

Today the same area of the country is dealing with the effects of hurricane Sally. Too many people wait to buy food, water, batteries, and critical supplies. As firearms are comparatively more expensive, even more people wait too long to buy them.

While we are not likely to suffer a direct hit from a hurricane, tornado's, fires earthquakes and COVID-19 pandemics can put Ohioans in a similar situation where access to firearms is the difference between life and death.

This bill is careful to allow orders regarding specific FFL's, in case one of them is acting in a criminal nature.

S.B. 360 strikes the right balance between protecting individual rights and a general duty of a safe and efficient government. It embodies the protecting of our unalienable Rights to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" cited in our Declaration of Independence.

I urge its passing.

Respectfully submitted,

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