

Brent Fogle
Chillicothe, Ohio

Chairman and committee members,

I wish to address my written comments to be entered in the public record of the Government Oversight Committee's request for public comment on HB227; the bill to authorize Constitutional carry of firearms in Ohio.

First, please allow me to comment on my personal reasons to support this bill. As an older adult with certain mobility issues, I find myself less able to fend off a violent attack, should one happen; therefore, I believe my recourse to personal safety is to have the ability to be armed when going out in public. Essentially my right to personal defense should not end at my front door.

Second, while one could argue that Ohio has an option to open carry, the very act of practicing open carry can, unfortunately bring on other problems, due to the public not being aware of the legal option to carry a firearm. It is this reason I prefer to exercise the option to carry and conceal my firearm. While I have utilized the legally licensed option to carry concealed, I believe that all citizens that are not otherwise exempted from the right to carry due to criminal record, adjudicated mental issues, or other protection orders, should have the full Constitutional ability to protect themselves, family, or companions from severe bodily harm.

Third, it should be understood and for lack of a better phrase, common sense, to be aware that approving Constitutional carry does not change any other laws regarding how or when deadly force is employed when forced to defend oneself or those around them from violent harm.

Fourth, it should be noted that criminals or those looking to cause harm to others are not magically dissuaded from carrying or using weapons to commit violent crimes simply because a law says they cannot do those things. So, this makes me ask; why shouldn't those, normally law-abiding citizens, have the ability to level the field when it comes to their ability to defend against violent attacks?

I would like to thank the committee for bringing HB227 to discussion and urge your committee to bring this important legislation forward out of committee and recommend passage and signature with all due expediency. Similar legislation has been enacted in several states, and it is time for Ohio to recognize law abiding citizens right to self-defense in this form.

Respectfully,
Brent Fogle