

My first question is why is this legislation even necessary? There does not appear to be any need to amend current Ohio law regarding concealed weapons. The old adage that if it ain't broke, don't fix it, applies here.

This proposed law basically eliminates any reason for any Ohio adult to get a concealed gun license which, by consequence, means not even the most minimal firearm training.

We don't allow Ohioans to become drivers without training. Yet, this law would permit almost any 21 year old adult to immediately purchase a handgun, not require even the most basic training, nor does it require notification to law enforcement authorities that a gun is concealed.

I am worried that the even greater access to guns by young people will result in teenagers acquiring guns from their older friends. We all know the stresses and dangers that teenagers already face, and without sufficient barriers, I am concerned that teenagers will use this access to "right wrongs".

Every day I am scared of being shot because I might anger someone when I'm driving, or some person might shoot me in a grocery store while I'm doing the mundane act of purchasing food or perhaps I or my children will be shot in a movie theater because voices have told the person to just kill strangers.

Further, this law will mark me for possible gun violence. It is an unbelievable irony that while almost any person who wants to buy a gun and conceal it will be able to do so, but I, as a business owner, must preeminently POST a sign on my door to keep weapons out? And if they come in with the weapons, what is my remedy? Is violating my sign a criminal offense?

I read the incident cited by one of the sponsors because one person one time was improperly charged. I presume the court system handled that matter, and the case dismissed. I was once charged with a housing violation, but there was no violation. It was dismissed at court once I spoke to the prosecutor. I did not demand the Ohio legislature change housing laws because I was falsely charged.

Is the standard now if one person is improperly charged (and acquitted or has the charges dropped) in Ohio, then the law must be changed? Perhaps we should get rid of all homicide laws because innocent people are charged?

This bill would allow anyone—even if the person has been charged an assault on a police officer— to carry a concealed weapon in Ohio.

Ohio's police officers, including the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio and the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, say eliminating the self-disclosure requirement is a bad idea. "There's no reason for a law-abiding citizen not to tell a law enforcement officer that they have a concealed handgun," said Mike Weinman, director of government affairs for the FOP of Ohio, Inc.

Republicans keep trying to say they want big government out of local control. Is this why you are proposing prohibiting local communities to pas local ordinances?

James Alan Fox, a professor of criminology at Northeastern University who analyzes data on violent crime, said. "Last year was unique in many ways." "Because of the pandemic, people were not in structured activities: Kids were not in school and adults were not at work. The whole country was divided by politics, the response to the coronavirus and the social justice movement." Those anxious conditions, Fox said, were accompanied by a surge in gun sales. "Eventually, those guns get used in the heat of anger," he said.

The FBI reported a nearly 30% increase in murders in 2020, the largest single-year jump since the bureau began recording crime statistics six decades ago. Yet, gun sales were up.

Sheriff Jerry Greene, of the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, also believed the proposed law is a bad idea.. "I certainly believe that law-abiding citizens should be allowed to carry weapons, but when you're removing the training involved and what it takes to get a CCW permit, concealed handgun license, you're taking out an element of the person learning what the responsibilities are. Learning the training involved. Learning safety, proper care," Greene said.

Sheriffs in Ohio are responsible for doing the background checks and for issuing the concealed handgun licenses.

Greene says if these bills were to pass, they could put people in danger and at risk for accidents. "We see how many accidents there are out there and shootings that take place. I just think it just opens the door, it just opens Pandora's box for potential accidents," Greene said.

For all the above reasons, I oppose this bill.