

Testimony in favor of House Bill 227 (Constitutional Carry)

Hello,

My name is Shane Pennachio and I'm writing this testimony to you today in favor of House Bill 227. I testified during the last hearing also and unfortunately that testimony was taken apart and misrepresented by another party, who isn't in favor of the bill, leaving out crucial details and facts. I'm really sorry that I cannot make it in person, but if I could be there please believe I'd be on my hands and knees begging you to put this bill on the floor for a vote. Like I said in my previous testimony this bill does not protect criminals who illegally possess firearms this bill is to protect everyday people like myself, law abiding firearm owners. There are a lot of reasons this bill

needs to be passed immediately and I'll start with Ohio's confusing laws regarding firearms. I understand "open carry is legal without a permit" ok fine but legal for who? It seems to me that open carry is legal if you walk everywhere, but for those of us that drive open carry is pointless and futile. I'm a delivery driver and I spend roughly 85% of my work day in a vehicle, if I have to unload my firearm and separate everything while I'm in the car I can't exactly protect myself. The open carry concept is severely outdated, and even though it may be technically legal, people do get harassed by law enforcement for open carry, there are examples of it everywhere. The other issue is our CHL standards do not line up with Federal NICS standards which is a serious violation of rights. That's actually half the battle I'm going through now, CHL standards being

different from NICS standards. We already have to pass a background check everytime we buy a firearm, if you passed the background check to own a firearm you should be able to legally carry that firearm. I'm about to turn 30 in a few months, I have a family and I'm certainly not a criminal, I have no felonies. There is no reason I shouldn't be able to protect my family with firearms I legally own. It's not 1873 and "Wild" Bill Hicock isn't walking down the street with an exposed pistol on his hip. I'm currently in the process of getting my CHL but I have a long way to go yet, no one should have to go through a ridiculous bureaucratic process just to protect their family, especially when they're not weapons disabled to begin with. My situation is a little rare but it's still no excuse for my 2nd Amendment rights being violated the way they are. I'm sure

you're also going to hear the argument that someone had a family member pass away due to gun violence and that's why this bill shouldn't be passed, we hear those stories all the time. It is sad and tragic and it should never happen but let's look at the other side of that coin. When I was 12 my cousin who I was extremely close with was shot and killed at age 20, just barely an adult. My fiancée was also attacked by an armed assailant once and she still deals with emotional trauma to this day. Those are the two main reasons I wish to legally own and carry firearms, to protect myself and my loved ones. Gun control and restricting the rights of law abiding gun owners IS NOT the answer to the gun violence problem in our country. We need to even the playing field so when a criminal does decide to make their move, those of us that are comfortable with firearms can

protect ourselves and those around us. Look at some of the places with strict gun control measures and you'll see that gun control is not the answer, California, New York City, Australia, all these places have gun control measures and they all have had a rise in crime and violence since. No one's asking to have background checks eliminated, no one's asking you to give felons a firearm, all we are asking for is to be able to protect ourselves. I don't think that's too much to ask for. Another issue I have is the monetary costs of getting a CHL. Honestly if I could afford it I would've gotten my CHL months ago! Most of the classes are at least \$100 then the application fee at the sherrifs office, fees for fingerprints and passport photos, by the time its all said and done you're \$300 in just to carry a firearm that you legally own! \$300 for something the U.S. and Ohio

constitutions set forth as a RIGHT! It's just ridiculous! Since when do we have to pay to exercise a right? That might not sound like alot to most people but for me and other low income families \$300 is a weeks salary and already spent on bills before it hits our bank accounts. Low income people have a right to protect themselves too. No one should have to jump through hoops to protect their loved ones regardless of income or what have you so long as they legally own their firearms. I really don't know what else to say, all I know is our current firearm laws are confusing and outdated. It's time for Ohio to step up and be a leader like we always have and join the 21 other states who have Constitutional Carry already. Thank you!