Testimony in support of Ohio House Bill 62

Harold E. Merz

6652 Lower Lake Drive Westerville, OH

Thanks for this opportunity to share perspectives with Ohio lawmakers. The Second Amendment Preservation Act is an important measure to protect the rights of Ohio citizens. Legislation dealing with firearms should not be mandated from Washington, D.C. Citizens in states like Ohio should have the right, through their elected representatives, to choose the type of legislation that they favor on this issue. The SAPA act will give Ohio's officials and law enforcement officers the right to refuse inappropriate enforcement of federal mandates that conflict with the Second Amendment, a freedom that has been ours since the establishment of this country. This bill will help to avoid an adversarial situation, where large numbers of law enforcement officers might have to spend substantial amounts of time and take personal risks to confiscate firearms held by private citizens.

Many senior citizens like myself appreciate the opportunity to purchase and maintain firearms for personal protection, sports and recreation. With the pressures on law enforcement officers, it is important for private citizens to be able to defend themselves. Criminals will always have access to firearms, regardless of what laws are passed. We very strongly urge the Ohio House of Representatives to pass this important measure.