



Representative Terrence Upchurch

10th House District

Representative Dontavius Jarrells

25th House District

**State and Local Government Committee
House Bill 274 Sponsor Testimony
Representatives Terrence Upchurch & Dontavius Jarrells
Restore local authority to regulate firearms conduct
November 16th, 2022**

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony regarding House Bill 274. HB 274 will strengthen Ohio's lawmaking bodies while protecting our most vulnerable citizens by repealing section 9.68 of the Revised Code and restoring local authority to regulate firearms conduct.

As it stands firearm ownership is an exercise of fundamental individual rights and is protected under section 9.68 of the Ohio Revised Code, "the general assembly also finds and declares that it is proper for law-abiding people to protect themselves, their families, and others from intruders and attackers without fear of prosecution or civil action for acting in defense of themselves or others. Except as specifically provided by the United States Constitution, Ohio Constitution, state law... etc."

This gives individuals the right to bear arms, firearms and knives, without any consequences. The issue is we have seen the consequences of loose gun ownership laws not only in the state of Ohio but all across the United States. It is imperative that we allow local authority to regulate firearms conduct and it is of the utmost importance that we assure that is done safely.

Our job is to protect Ohioans, this is not a way to strip people of their freedoms and rights, but a means of protecting all Ohioans. A governing body must be able to regulate instruments that have the capacity to kill, especially in the plight of mass shootings. Let's do our job and make sure our constituents are protected no matter what.

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to this important constituent protecting legislation.



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