

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 227
Ohio House Government Oversight Committee
10 October 2021

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Good morning, Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Committee Members. My name is Alfred Davis. I am the pastor of the Bible Baptist Church in Richfield, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony in support of House Bill 227, *Regards concealed weapons and concealed carry without license*.

As you are aware, the United States Constitution states in the Second Amendment, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed." This fundamental right is also echoed in the Ohio Constitution, which states in Article I, Section 4, "The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power."

Both the United States Constitution and the Ohio Constitution reflect the Biblical concept of self-defense and security. Exodus 22:2, for example, recognizes the right of an individual to employ lethal force in order to defend himself, his home, his property, and his family: "If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him." Even Jesus said, in Luke 22:36, "...But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." In both cases, arms – instruments of lethal force – are recognized as being right and necessary for self-defense and the security of both individuals and their families, as well as the community.

Ohio currently allows for open carry and has concealed carry by permit. This disparity between permit-less open carry and permitted concealed carry, however, potentially turns law abiding citizens into criminals. For example, if I am openly carrying a firearm, I am not a lawbreaker. But if I sit down, and my coat covers it, I am now a lawbreaker because I am carrying a concealed weapon without a permit. This is an outrageous, unconscionable, and unreasonable situation to put millions of law-abiding Ohioans into. Nevertheless, it is easily remedied by this Committee in passing House Bill 227, *Regards concealed weapons and concealed carry without license*.

Consequently, I respectfully urge the Members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee to vote in favor of House Bill 227, *Regards concealed weapons and concealed carry without license*, so that Ohio can join its neighbors, West Virginia and Kentucky, and the 19 other states, in recognizing, supporting, and defending the Constitutional and Biblical right of Americans to carry arms whether open or concealed.

Thank you and may God bless you in your efforts here today.

Pastor Alfred B. Davis