



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OHIO**

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Testimony before the  
House State Government Committee  
The Honorable Ron Maag, Chair  
by  
Rosie Craig  
League of Women Voters of Ohio  
June 10, 2015

My name is Rosie Craig from Cleveland, Ohio. I am here as a member of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) to speak on their behalf, in opposition to HB 48. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization, taking a non-partisan approach to the dangerous proliferation of firearms.

The LWVO is gravely concerned about the safety of Ohio citizens in all places, public or private. We support background checks for gun sales, banning assault weapons, and making adults legally liable for their firearms relative to possession or use by a minor child. It believes that these are the legislative issues that the Ohio Assembly should be concerned with instead of weakening the current Ohio CCW law.

The LWVO believes that the proliferation of handguns in the additional places identified in HB 48 increases the chance for deadly mishap or escalated violence. This bill is part of a wider movement to continually weaken the original CCW statute, which LWVO opposed in 2004. HB 48 is designed to weaken Ohio's CCW statute, yet making it more confusing to understand.

As CCW law is continually and confusingly amended, it places undue burden on institutions, whose purpose has nothing to do with guns, to monitor and respond to the shifting signage and policy documentation requirements of CCW. Civil action immunity is incongruent with supporter's premises that more guns in places of learning make us safer.

HB 48 will do the following and more:

- **eliminate** the requirement to prohibit the carrying of loaded hidden guns in the following places: places of worship, daycare centers, private aircraft, and certain government buildings.
- **expand** the places guns can be carried in airports, police stations, and school zones.

- **allow** colleges and universities to permit loaded weapons to be carried on campus, grants them immunity if they do, and reduces an offense for someone carrying without permission to do so to a minor misdemeanor.
- **allow** weapons to be carried in safe school zones if locked in the vehicle.
- **retain** the right to post signage to prohibit weapons on private property.

Proponents for CCW and its continued liberalization espouse the increased security of carrying a concealed handgun for self defense and protection. However, guns can misfire simply by being handled. While being carried or being stored, guns can and do fall into the wrong hands. One in five police officers who die in the line of duty, die when their own gun is taken and used against them. Numerous citizens, testifying in October of 2013 in favor of HB 31, spoke of the devastations in their lives when guns fell into hands of unauthorized minors.

The “s” in self defense is not the same “s” as in “safety.” Other safety devices such as bicycle helmets or seat belts can be properly operated by a child. When it was discovered that automobile air bags could cause fatal injuries to a child sitting in the front seat, air bags were redesigned and a public awareness campaign launched to have children sit in the back. Yet in Ohio, we are not allowed to study the effects of our CCW laws and their continual weakening.

Please oppose HB 48. Thank you for you for hearing this testimony.

*The League of Women Voters of Ohio, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*