



# Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Inc.

## OFCC Calls For Quick Action In The Ohio Senate

**Cleveland, Ohio** - November 7th, 2002 - Ohioans For Concealed Carry urged the Ohio Senate today to immediately put the election behind them and return to the task of legislating. House Bill 274, which would reform the law on carrying concealed weapons (CCW) for self-defense in Ohio, has passed the House 66 to 28 and has already heard testimony in a Senate Committee.

*The people  
have the right  
to bear arms  
for their  
defense and  
security*

Ohio Constitution,  
Article I, Section 4

"The Ohio House spent hundreds of hours crafting HB274, holding numerous hearings and integrating the input of various concerned citizens, law enforcement professionals and other organizations. Fair and honest polls, such as those conducted by Ohio State University have shown that Ohioans, when informed of the details, overwhelmingly support legislation such as HB274." said Jeff Garvas, President of Ohioans For Concealed Carry (OFCC). "The enormous effort by the House should not go wasted due to politics or inaction in the Ohio Senate."

Currently, 43 states have enacted CCW reform and HB274 includes the best features of these laws. HB274 includes strict training requirements, requires police background checks, and keeps schools and other areas as gun-free zones. HB274 does not change current laws banning the possession of firearms by dangerous criminals or drug-addicted persons.

FBI statistics recently released indicate that Ohio's violent crime is on the rise. Forcible rapes are up five percent and aggravated assaults are up ten percent. In Cincinnati, murders jumped from 15 in 2000 to 55 in 2001. Columbus reported a 21% increase. Cleveland admitted they are "twelve murders ahead" when compared to this same time last year. Research published by John Lott, author of "More Guns; Less Crime," proves that states with concealed carry have downward trends in violent crime. Ohio's increase in violent crime highlights the importance of giving Ohioans the ability to exercise self-defense, a fundamental right clearly guaranteed by our State Constitution.

Most law enforcement professionals support legislation like HB274. The Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, representing Ohio's 88 county Sheriffs, and the only elected law enforcement officers in the state, helped craft some of the important language in HB274. OFCC is urging Senators to defeat the anti-self defense tactics of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). The FOP claims, without basis, that HB274 will put officers at risk. However, in the states where CCW is legal, there are no known incidents in which a license holder used his concealed firearm against a police officer. The FOP claims to support concealed carry, yet in the past two years, the FOP has never publicly offered a single amendment to resolve their concerns. This approach indicates the FOP's only intention is to keep Ohio's citizens from exercising their right to self-defense.

Senator Lynn Wachtmann (R-Napoleon) informed OFCC he shares their position on HB274. "The House passed a good bill," Wachtmann said. "The time has come for the Senate to act, and pass this concealed carry reform bill to protect Ohio's citizens."

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