



June 22, 2017

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger
 House District 91
 77 South High Street, 14th Floor
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Larry Obhof
 Senate District 22
 Ohio Statehouse
 1 Capitol Square
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Speaker Rosenberger and President Obhof,

On behalf of the tens of thousands of businesses we represent, the undersigned Ohio business associations write to you in opposition to an amendment added to House Bill 49 by the Senate that further infringes upon the private property rights of Ohio's business owners and adds significant additional liability for all of Ohio's property owners.

Ohio's concealed carry laws currently contain provisions to protect employers' ability to prohibit concealed weapons on their premises. As we did when these laws were first enacted, we continue to believe that current law allowing employers to prohibit weapons

and firearms on their property is critical and should be left to the discretion of individual employers. However, language now included in ORC 2923.1210 that was passed last year and opposed by many of our organizations allows individuals to store firearms in their privately-owned vehicles on employer property under certain circumstances.

Amendment SC5837, which is both overly broad and vague, would exacerbate this problem by adding significant liability for all property owners and employers throughout the state. The amendment allows any “injured” person, though that term is not defined in the statute, to be awarded compensatory damages, equitable relief, and even attorneys’ fees and costs. Creating a new way to file a lawsuit against employers and private property owners is a step backward for Ohio’s legal climate. Simply put, employers and property owners should not be subjected to this unfettered civil liability.

We believe that this amendment greatly impacts civil liability for business owners and private property owners and should be vetted in stand-alone legislation. For these reasons, we urge to you to remove this burdensome amendment.

Respectfully,

Andrea Ashley
VP of Government Relations
Associated General Contractors

Jen Klein
President
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council

Dennis Saunier
President & CEO
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

Gordon Gough
President & CEO
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

Don DePerro
President & CEO
Columbus Chamber of Commerce

Patrick Harris
VP of Government Affairs
Ohio Credit Union League

Robert Lapp
President
Manufacturing Policy Alliance

Kristin Mullins
President/CEO
Ohio Grocers Association

Roger Geiger
Vice President/Executive Director
NFIB/Ohio

Dean Fadel
President
Ohio Insurance Institute

Zach Doran
President
Ohio Automobile Dealers Association

Rob Brundrett
Director, Public Policy Services
Ohio Manufacturers’ Association

Greg Saul
Director of Tax Policy
Ohio Society of CPAs

Keith Lake
VP, Government Affairs
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Todd Book
Director of Policy & Government Affairs
Ohio State Bar Association

Angela VanFossen
Director, Legislative Affairs
Ohio Contractors Association

Thomas Balzer
President & CEO
Ohio Trucking Association
Ohio Association of Movers

Thomas Humphries
President & CEO
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

CC: The Honorable Ryan Smith
The Honorable Scott Ryan
The Honorable Jack Cera
The Honorable Scott Oelslager
The Honorable Gayle Manning
The Honorable Michael Skindell
Merle Madrid, Director of Legislative Affairs, Governor John Kasich