

Chairman of the Board
WILLIAM E. SOPKO
President, William Sopko & Sons Co., Inc.



President
ERIC L. BURKLAND

December 12, 2016

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Veto Request on Am. Sub. Senate Bill 199

Dear Governor Kasich:

We write to convey our great concerns with Am Sub. Senate Bill 199. At our behest, employment counsel for The Ohio Manufacturers' Association has reviewed the recently passed amended legislation.

The bill revises R.C. Chapter 2923 by prohibiting business entities, property owners, and employers from prohibiting concealed carry licensees from transporting or storing a firearm or ammunition in their privately owned vehicles.

These new amendments go far beyond the bill's original intent, which appears to have been to allow military personnel to have the same rights and protections as concealed carry owners without having to go through the concealed carry application/training process.

Under the bill, employers will no longer be able to ban concealed carry licensees from transporting or storing firearms in privately owned vehicles on the employers' property. This interferes with an employer's ability and obligation to provide a safe workplace for employees and others who enter the property for legitimate reasons. Allowing firearms on a manufacturing premise brings additional risk to manufacturing facilities, especially facilities that deal with hazardous materials. Manufacturers and other businesses need to have the right to regulate firearms on their privately owned property.

Private employers generally ban employees from possessing weapons on their premises, including weapons kept in motor vehicles. This bill vacates a private property owner's right to regulate the presence of weapons on its property and weakens an employer's ability to ensure a safe workplace for its employees.

For these reasons we opposed Am. Sub. Senate Bill 199 and respectfully request your veto. Thank you for considering the manufacturers' position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Burkland".

Eric Burkland
President

CC: Wayne Struble
Merle Madrid

Enclosure – Legal Memorandum