

SAMPLE LETTER TO LAWMAKERS

Your name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number

The Honorable _____
House/Senate Address

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

As a constituent, I strongly urge you to support a Conference Committee report for House Bill 12 (Right-to-Carry legislation), which could remove the current provision requiring all permit holders who are traveling in a car with passengers under the age of 18 to secure their handguns in a locked box, thus, rendering their guns inaccessible and useless for self defense. This provision, approved by the members of the Senate, is unacceptable and contradicts the underlying principles of a Right-to-Carry law. This Senate provision, in fact, could put law-abiding concealed carry permit holders in great danger by creating an unnecessary "victim zone."

As has been the case when Right-to-Carry legislation has been debated in state legislatures across the country, opponents claim such a law will cause a surge in the state's crime rate. This simply is not the case. Such instances have not occurred in other states that have enacted non-discriminatory, Right-to-Carry laws that allow qualified, law-abiding citizens, who have passed a criminal background check and taken a firearm safety course, to obtain a permit to carry a concealed firearm for self-defense. In fact, states that currently issue Right-to-Carry permits have lower overall violent crime rates. According to an FBI report, in states with Right-to-Carry laws, total violent crime is 18% lower, homicide is 21% lower, robbery is 32% lower, and aggravated assault is 11% lower.

For the first time in 10 years, Right-to-Carry is on the brink of becoming a reality in Ohio. Currently, Ohio is one of only five states that does not have at least some sort of statute allowing law-abiding citizens to carry firearms for self protection. Many of Ohio's neighbors have already passed fair, non-discretionary "Shall Issue" permit laws. It is high time the Ohio Legislature passed Right-to-Carry and recognized law-abiding Ohioans right to self-defense.

Again, I would urge you to act swiftly on the Conference Committee report, and, if needed, an override of the Governor's veto.

Sincerely,

Your Name