



Ohio Gun Owners

Ohio's Grassroots Gun Rights Organization
3195 Dayton-Xenia Road, #900-306
Beavercreek, OH 45434

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 14, 2026

TO: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate

FROM: Chris Dorr, Ohio Gun Owners (OGO)

RE: Bring the Freedom to Carry Act (HB 495 / SB 392) to the floor in Lane Duck

Pro-gun legislation that is critically needed to protect lawful gun owners in Ohio has been blocked in the Ohio Statehouse, and Ohio gun owners have noticed.

The Ohio Freedom to Carry Act legislation in the Senate, SB 392, has received just one hearing, and when this same legislation was offered by amendment in the House, a majority of that chamber voted to kill it.

With only a few weeks left in this General Assembly, "Lame Duck" session is the last opportunity this legislature has to finish the job, and the gun owners who sent you to Columbus expect you to take it.

What the bill does.

The Freedom to Carry Act rests on a simple principle that most Ohioans assume is already the law: if it's legal for an Ohioan to own a firearm or accessory, it should be legal for that

Ohioan to carry it, possess it, and transport it. Today, that isn't the case.

Ohio law still treats suppressors and short-barreled rifles and shotguns as dangerous ordnance, which means a law-abiding citizen's legal status depends entirely on whether the item appears in a federal registry kept by the ATF in Washington.

HB 495 and SB 392 fix that. The bill removes suppressors and short-barreled rifles and shotguns from Ohio's dangerous ordnance list, so that Ohio law is no longer dependent on a federal agency's latest enforcement policy (which could easily change in 2028).

Why it can't wait.

ATF's recent letter announced that it will not enforce the NFA tax on these items and that the tax is now \$0. Many gun owners have read that as a green light, but it is not. The letter is an enforcement policy, not a reclassification, and it did not change what counts as an NFA firearm under federal law.

Because Ohio's dangerous ordnance statute is tied to that federal framework, Ohio law still treats an unregistered short-barreled rifle or shotgun, and every unregistered suppressor, as dangerous ordnance, and possessing one is a felony.

The result is confusion and legal jeopardy for law-abiding Ohioans. They are hearing one thing from Washington and reading something else in the Ohio Revised Code, and they are left trying to work out whether owning a lawful firearm in their own homes could make them felons.

No citizen should need an attorney and a stack of federal letters to answer that question.

This confusion was created by Ohio's own statute, which means it is *your* responsibility to fix, and *only you* can fix it.

Second Amendment demand.

It is imperative that the leadership of both chambers move either HB495 or SB392 immediately and bring the Freedom to Carry Act to a floor vote before *Lame Duck* ends. Additionally, it must do so with extreme speed in order to leave enough time in reserve to mobilize support for Governor DeWine to sign the

legislation, and additional time for a veto-override session should Governor Mike DeWine veto the bill.

To be clear, it is unacceptable to pass this fix and adjourn sine die, because that would preclude the possibility of an override.

Gun owners will recognize that action for what it is.

Ohio gun owners are not asking for anything radical. They simply expect the legislature treat what is legal to own as legal to carry, possess, and transport, and that their rights stop depending on a federal registry.

A vote to bury this bill again is not a neutral act, and gun owners will not treat it as one.

Ohio Gun Owners will continue to report to our members on every legislator's record on this bill, including whether it receives a vote in Lane Duck and how each member votes when it does.

We urge you to stand with the gun owners of Ohio and pass the Freedom to Carry Act this year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dorr" followed by a stylized flourish.

Chris Dorr, Executive Director
Ohio Gun Owners