



## Reject Ohio HB 233

**Bottom Line:** HB 233 would allow people to carry concealed, loaded handguns in schools and on college campuses, in bars while drinking, and even on private property where “no guns allowed” signs are posted.

❑ **HB 233 would encroach on private property rights by allowing people to bring hidden, loaded handguns onto private property—even if the owner has posted a sign prohibiting firearms.**

- Under current law, an owner of private property in Ohio can post a sign prohibiting visitors from carrying firearms onto that property. A person who carries a firearm in violation of such a sign is guilty of criminal trespass.<sup>1</sup>
- HB 233 would radically undermine private property rights by allowing people to bring hidden, loaded handguns onto private property—like a residence, or a store—even if the owner has posted a no-guns-allowed sign.<sup>2</sup>

❑ **HB 233 would allow people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in elementary, middle, and high schools—despite opposition from school safety experts who know that this policy is unnecessary and unsafe.**

- Under current law, generally only trained law enforcement and security officers can carry concealed handguns in Ohio elementary, middle, and high schools.<sup>3</sup> HB 233 would allow civilians—including teachers—to carry hidden, loaded handguns in schools.<sup>4</sup>
- Teachers and school safety experts oppose allowing guns in schools.
  - The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation’s two largest teachers’ organizations oppose allowing guns in schools.<sup>5</sup>
  - A guide published by the federal government’s chief legal, law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies cautioned that **allowing civilians to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice.**<sup>6</sup>
- Schools are already extremely safe.
  - On average, only 1 percent of all homicides of school-age children occur on school grounds, on the way to or from school, or during a school sponsored event.<sup>7</sup>
  - There is approximately one homicide of a school-age youth at school per 1.8 million enrolled students.<sup>8</sup> “Active shooter” incidents, like those at Sandy Hook School and Columbine High School, are extremely rare.<sup>9</sup>

❑ **HB 233 would allow people to carry hidden, loaded handguns on college and university campuses—despite opposition from campus stakeholders, including OSU President Michael Drake, and the potential for significant security and insurance costs.**

- Under current law, people can only carry concealed handguns on college and university premises with written authorization from the institution’s governing body.<sup>10</sup> HB 233 would change the law to allow students, employees, and visitors—without any written authorization—to carry hidden, loaded handguns on any college or university premises.<sup>11</sup>
- Allowing students and others to carry guns on campus would burden Ohio colleges with large new costs for security and insurance.



- In 2014, Idaho passed legislation that forced colleges to allow people with “enhanced” permits to carry guns on campus. As a result, five state schools had to request more than \$3.7 million from the state to increase security in the first year alone.<sup>12</sup>
- Campus stakeholders oppose guns on campus. Campus police chiefs,<sup>13</sup> college administrators and faculty,<sup>14</sup> and college students<sup>15</sup> all overwhelmingly oppose guns on college campuses.
  - Ohio State University President Michael Drake, who opposes allowing guns on campuses, has said that “[n]one of my colleagues or myself think that’s a good idea” and that only trained security guards should carry guns on campus—not students or campus visitors.<sup>16</sup>
- Colleges and universities, which have traditionally prohibited guns on campus, are relatively safe from gun violence.<sup>17</sup> But campus life is rife with other risk factors that make the presence of guns potentially dangerous – including heavy alcohol and drug use,<sup>18</sup> and mental health issues and suicide.<sup>19</sup>
- ❑ **HB 233 would allow people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in bars while they are drinking or under the influence of alcohol—despite alcohol’s association with increased aggression.**
  - Under current law, a person cannot carry a concealed handgun in an Ohio bar while consuming beer or liquor, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.<sup>20</sup> HB 233 would repeal this commonsense public safety law and, for the first time, allow people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in bars while they are drinking or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.<sup>21</sup>
  - The public strongly opposes guns in bars. Ninety-three percent of Americans think people should not be allowed to bring guns into bars.<sup>22</sup>
  - People under the influence of alcohol are both more likely to be shot and more likely to kill someone else.
    - Alcohol intoxication increases the likelihood of violent behavior. Alcohol has detrimental effects on cognitive functioning, inhibits problem-solving abilities, and increases the likelihood of risk-taking, all of which are directly linked to aggressive behavior.<sup>23</sup>
    - Controlling for other factors, a case-control study in Philadelphia found that heavy drinkers were more than twice as likely to be shot in an assault as nondrinkers.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ORC Ann. 2923.126(C)(3)(a).

<sup>2</sup> A person who refuses or fails to leave the premises upon being requested to do so, or who returns within thirty days to the same premises while knowingly in possession of a firearm, would be guilty of disorderly conduct.

<sup>3</sup> ORC Ann. 2923.122; 2923.126(B)(2).

<sup>4</sup> A person who refuses or fails to leave the school safety zone upon being requested to do so, or who returns within thirty days to the same school safety zone while knowingly in possession of a firearm, would be guilty of disorderly conduct.

<sup>5</sup> “AFT, NEA: Arming Teachers Won’t Keep Schools Safe, Dec. 20, 2012, available at: <http://www.nea.org/home/53943.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Education, et.al, “Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, 2012, available at: [http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS\\_k-12\\_Guide\\_508.pdf](http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_k-12_Guide_508.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Digest of education statistics, 2015. Table 228.10: School-associated violent deaths of all persons, homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18 at school, and total homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18, by type of violent death: 1993-93 to 2012-13. National Center for Education Statistics; [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15\\_228.10.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_228.10.asp). Accessed November 28, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Zhang, A., Musu-Gillette, L., and Oudekerk, B.A. (2016). Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2015 (NCES 2016-079/NCJ 249758). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC., at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016079.pdf>. Digest of education statistics, 2015. National Center for Education Statistics; date unknown. [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15\\_105.20.asp?current=yes](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_105.20.asp?current=yes). Accessed November 28, 2016.



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<sup>9</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "School Shootings in America

<sup>10</sup> ORC Ann. 2923.126(B)(5).

<sup>11</sup> A person who refuses or fails to leave the college or university premises upon being requested to do so, or who returns within thirty days to the same college or university premises while knowingly in possession of a firearm, would be guilty of disorderly conduct.

<sup>12</sup> Campus Safety Magazine, "Concealed Carry Law Costs Idaho Colleges \$3.7M", February 5, 2015, available at:

[http://www.campussafetymagazine.com/article/conceal\\_carry\\_law\\_costs\\_idaho\\_colleges\\_3.7m/Metal\\_Detection](http://www.campussafetymagazine.com/article/conceal_carry_law_costs_idaho_colleges_3.7m/Metal_Detection).

<sup>13</sup> Thompson, Amy, et al. "Reducing firearm-related violence on college campuses—Police chiefs' perceptions and practices." *Journal of American College Health* 58.3 (2009): 247-254.

<sup>14</sup> Price, James H., et al. "University Presidents' Perceptions and Practice Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns on College Campuses." *Journal of American College Health* 62.7 (2014): 461-469; Thompson, Amy, et al. "Faculty perceptions and practices regarding carrying concealed handguns on university campuses." *Journal of community health* 38.2 (2013): 366-373.

<sup>15</sup> Thompson, Amy, et al. "Student perceptions and practices regarding carrying concealed handguns on university campuses." *Journal of American college health* 61.5 (2013): 243-253.

<sup>16</sup> Knox, Tom. "Ohio State President Speaks on Guns on Campus, Quicker Incident Notifications in Wake of Attack."

*bizjournals.com*, Nov. 30, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2sz5o2Z>.

<sup>17</sup> Carr, Joetta L. "Campus violence white paper." *Journal of American College Health* 55.5 (2007): 304-319, available at:

<http://curry.virginia.edu/uploads/resourceLibrary/white-paper.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Casa, N. C. "Wasting the best and the brightest: Substance abuse at America's colleges and universities." *New York (US): Columbia University-National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse* (2007).

<sup>19</sup> ACHA. National College Health Assessment: Spring 2015 Reference Group Executive Summary. American College Health Association;2015.

<sup>20</sup> ORC Ann. 2923.121.

<sup>21</sup> A person who refuses or fails to leave the premises upon being requested to do so, or who returns within thirty days to the same premises while knowingly in possession of a firearm, would be guilty of disorderly conduct.

<sup>22</sup> Hemenway, D., Azrael, D., & Miller, M. (2001). National attitudes concerning gun carrying in the United States. *Injury Prevention*, 7(4), 282–285. Retrieved August 3, 2016 from <http://bit.ly/2aNlpdA>.

<sup>23</sup> Wilson, I. M., Graham, K., & Taft, A. (2014). Alcohol interventions, alcohol policy and intimate partner violence: a systematic review. *BMC Public Health*, 14, 881. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2bgf0p0>.

<sup>24</sup> Branas, C. C., Elliott, M. R., Richmond, T. S., Culhane, D. P., & Wiebe, D. J. (2009). Alcohol consumption, alcohol outlets, and the risk of being assaulted with a gun. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, 33(5), 906–915. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2avhx01>.