

My view on the CCW law in the state of Ohio is both positive and negative. Although locally there are no statistics to prove that crime has decreased with the CCW law, I do believe it does act as a deterrent in some ways. I also believe that a citizen has a right to carry a firearm as long as that citizen has passed the proper background checks and can do so legally.

My negatives have always been the training that is provided. I feel it is greatly lacking in hours, specifically range time. I also feel that a citizen going through the CCW course should be bound by the weapon they go through training with. An example would be if they go through CCW training with a .40 Smith and Wesson, they should be bound to carrying that specific weapon. It should also state on their permit what weapon they are allowed to carry. I feel strongly that a citizen going through the CCW course with a .22 pistol will not be as effective if after the course they carry a different, more powerful, firearm.

Law enforcement officers go through hours and hours of training and they must carry the firearms they qualify with. I don't feel citizens need to go through the amount of hours a law enforcement official does, but they should have to go through more. This is especially concerning when I hear that some CCW instructors throughout the state may be side-stepping the current required hours.

In terms of teachers being armed in schools, I would have to say I am not in favor of it. We would be asking a teacher to potentially take a life and that life might be a current or past student of theirs. They may have a strong bond with that student and they may not be able to shoot that student if needed to. From experience in training our teachers, they are a very peaceful group and a lot of them would never think of taking a life. I do not fault them for being peaceful; they are teachers, not warriors.

I will also go back to the training issue. Training teachers would have to be very extensive and who would do the training? Then we would have to look at the liability issues. What happens if a teacher attempts to shoot an attacker and hits another student instead? What happens if that firearm gets into the wrong hands? What happens if there is an active shooter in a school and a police officer enters and sees a teacher holding a gun, but doesn't know that person is a teacher? When an officer enters a building where an active shooter is, that officer has one sole purpose and that is to stop the threat. The officer most likely will not know every teacher, especially in a school system as large as ours, and recognizing a teacher from a potential suspect may be very difficult in the stresses of the moment.

Unfortunately a lot of these issues are not as simple as people think and they are not as cut and dry and many would wish them to be.

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