

## LWVO State House Day – March 7, 2017

### Rosie Craig, Gun Control Specialist

The Ohio General Assembly passed the following provisions of the **“Guns Everywhere” bill** during the 2016 lame duck session by rolling HB48 (opposed by LWVO) into SB199.

- **Don't want to leave your gun at home?** Employers can no longer forbid workers from storing a gun in a locked vehicle on company property.
- **Are you an active military member?** You now can carry a concealed handgun in Ohio without a permit, assuming you've had weapons training and carry such documentation.
- **Want to carry a gun on campus, or while picking up your child?** College campuses and daycare centers are no longer automatically off limits to concealed handguns. Trustees, operators, or business owners must choose if guns are to be allowed. Daycare centers now must post signs to prohibit. Parents must ASK, “Are loaded guns allowed where my student studies?”
- **Forget that loaded gun in your purse as you arrive at the airport?** You're okay with your concealed carry (CCW) license, so long as you don't take your gun through security.

At the federal level, we have seen the weakening of the Federal Brady background checks. There will be a push to lift the ban on “Gun Free” school zones, to allow gun owners to have silencers (already legal in Ohio), and to force states with stringent CCW laws to have reciprocity with states who have less stringent laws.

In February, a federal appeals court struck down an NRA-backed Florida law that restricted doctors from talking to their patients about the risks of guns. The decision was by the full panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta. It is a victory for the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and for all who wish to protect patient client privilege to keep our families safe.

Gun Violence takes more American lives than terrorism. In some regions, it takes more lives than car accidents. More American lives have been lost to gun violence than all our wars combined. As we look at our demonstrations and civil engagement during these unprecedented times, remember that deceased victims of gun violence cannot protest from the grave. Imagine the marches and demonstrations we would see if they could!

**TO DO:** Now more than ever, it is IMPERATIVE that we as individuals and as local leagues, advocate and promote our choices that are still legal. INCLUDING:

- **Urge School Boards** not to allow CCW permit holders, employee or otherwise, to have guns in the schools. Demand that any consideration for guns in schools have input from student families.
- **Urge college trustees** to not allow CCW licensees to carry guns on campus. Make sure your high school guidance counsellors know your opinions about guns on campus.
- **Contact local daycare centers** in your community and make sure that they understand how the new signage requirements affects them.
- **Contact businesses** in your community that do not post a “no weapons” sign. Make sure that they know of their option to keep guns out of their establishments and indicate that you will only patronize those establishments that prohibit.

On a positive note, Representative Bill Patmon has introduced HB33, a bill to make gun owners criminally liable if their gun falls into the hands of a minor. There will most certainly be other common sense gun laws introduced later dealing with assault weapons and better background checks. However, with the current Ohio government, there is little chance for LWVO to drive the passage of laws which support our position statements on gun control.