

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.acluohio.org/en/news/senate-bill-140-proponent-testimony-written-only>

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Below is our Chief Lobbyist Gary Daniels' proponent testimony on Senate Bill 140. This was delivered to the House Criminal Justice Committee on November 21, 2019.

To Chairwoman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, I write to express the ACLU of Ohio's support for Senate Bill 140.

As the committee previously heard, SB 140 removes the current prohibitions and criminal penalties against the manufacturing, sale, providing to another, and possession of certain knives, including switchblade, springblade, and gravity knives, and similar devices.

ACLU offices around the country have previously advocated for and testified in favor of removing or reforming these laws for a variety of reasons including:

In Ohio, our criminal justice system is still not anywhere close to a point where we can enjoy complete and reliable statewide data about such matters as who is arrested and convicted, and why, or how long they remain incarcerated. Still it is hard to believe the problems experienced in other states with regard to enforcement of outdated and unnecessary knife laws are not being repeated here.

For these reasons and more, we encourage your passage of Senate Bill 140.

Stay informed

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