



It's a **RIGHT**, *not a privilege!*

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the thousands of members and supporters of Great Lakes Gun Rights. My name is Brenden Boudreau and I am the Executive Director of GLGR.

When it comes to the right to keep and bear arms, Michigan is out of step with much of the nation.

While there are now 21 states that require no permit to carry either openly or concealed, Michigan has one of the most expensive permits to obtain and maintain in the country.

As if that isn't bad enough, Michigan law carries a harsh five year felony conviction for carrying a concealed pistol without a permit.

Surprisingly, California is more forgiving towards carry without a permit than Michigan.

Even after going through all of the bureaucratic hoops, paying the expensive administrative fees, obtaining the required training, being fingerprinted like a common criminal and going through a stringent background check, Michigan law gives no grace towards current CPL holders for accidentally allowing their permit to lapse by even one day.

The legislation before you, House Bill 4003, is a modest, commonsense proposal that will prevent CPL holders from becoming felons for an honest mistake. House Bill 4003 gives grace to those who have gone through the process and paid the fees to be a CPL holder in the state of Michigan.

Criminal justice reform has been a central theme in Lansing for both political parties of late and I think that this legislation fits the bill. It keeps Michigan law from destroying the lives of otherwise law-abiding citizens.

My preference would be for the repeal of the requirement to pay a "coat tax" in order to carry a concealed pistol here in Michigan, and the House should have that discussion by bringing Constitutional Carry up for a vote, but House Bill 4003 is a step forward that will affect the lives of an estimated 100+ CPL holders in the state of Michigan who accidentally run afoul of this law.

In closing, I encourage the bill sponsor and committee to consider amending HB 4003 to include a "look back period" that would allow folks who recently ran afoul of this law have their records cleared of this offense. Thank you for your time.