

May 23, 2019

The Honorable John Becker  
Chairperson, Federalism Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Re: Opposition to HB 174/178, the “Permitless Carry” bill**

Dear Representative Becker and Members of the Committee,

Good morning. My name is Kristine Woodworth. I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense here in Ohio, and I’m a resident of House District 27 in Cincinnati. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. I am here to briefly share with you why, as an Ohioan, I am opposed to HB178 and its sweeping rollbacks of public safety laws in our state.

I am fortunate in that I have not been directly affected by gun violence, but by considering allowing people to carry hidden loaded handguns in public with NO safety training, you are drastically increasing the odds that I will be in the future. States that have enacted permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence. In fact, after Missouri enacted a permitless carry bill in 2017, the city of St. Louis experienced a nearly 25% increase in the rate of aggravated assault with a gun in 2017 compared to 2016.<sup>1</sup> That represents 484 more gun-related aggravated assaults in 2017 than in 2016.<sup>2</sup> Similar to Missouri, since Arizona enacted permitless carry law in 2010, the rate of aggravated assaults committed with a firearm in the state increased by 39 percent by 2017.<sup>3</sup> That increase represents 1,797 more gun-related aggravated assaults committed in 2017 than in 2010.<sup>4</sup>

I don’t want to take up too much time here today. I just want to make clear the fact that 90% of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. Allowing people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit, a criminal background check, or firearm safety training will have serious consequences to our safety. Allowing this bill to become a law in our state also ignores the current reality in Ohio -- in an average year, over 1,400 Ohioans are shot and killed with a gun.<sup>5</sup> Please do your part to help lower this number and vote no on HB178.

I hope I can count on you to do that.

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<sup>1</sup> Report: CRM0013-BY: Part 1 Crime Comparison Based on UCR Reporting Neighborhood Report. City of St. Louis, MO: Metropolitan Police Department. January 6, 2017. <https://bit.ly/1kzVFQP>. Rates were calculated using population data from the United States Census Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Report: CRM0013-BY: Part 1 Crime Comparison Based on UCR Reporting Neighborhood Report. City of St. Louis, MO: Metropolitan Police Department. January 8, 2018. <https://bit.ly/2HDE8tA>. Rates were calculated using population data from the United States Census Bureau.

<sup>3</sup> Crime in Arizona, 2010. Phoenix, Arizona: Arizona Department of Public Safety. <https://bit.ly/2Uffq3Q>. Rates were calculated using population data from the United States Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup> Crime in Arizona, 2017. Phoenix, Arizona: Arizona Department of Public Safety. <https://bit.ly/2Rds4hV>. Rates were calculated using population data from the United States Census Bureau.

<sup>5</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety analysis; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2013 to 2017.