

Testimony on House Bill 227

House Government Oversight Committee

June 17, 2021

Submitted by:
Andrea Kovesdi

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to House Bill 227. My name is Andrea Kovesdi and have lived in Ohio all of my 54 years. My husband and I are small business owners and have two adult children.

What good would this bill's passing do for Ohioans? I see absolutely no benefit in not only passing this bill but drafting it. And, I'm not alone. 88% of Americans believe that permitless carry is a bad idea and states that have enacted permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence. And if 88% of Americans isn't enough for you, 90 percent of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. (USA Survey, March 2016)

This bill would allow people with no firearms safety training, violent criminals, and some drug offenders to carry concealed handguns in public. I have written several testimonies in opposition to gun bills over the last year. My question for this body is why? Why would a bill such as this even be considered? When I watch the local news, it seems that every day they open with a story or two about a shooting. People are dying or being horribly injured on a near constant basis in our state and in our country. Putting more guns into the hands of those who would do harm to others is not the way to stop the gun violence epidemic that we are all living through.

This bill's passage would make Ohio a more dangerous place to live, work or visit. I implore you to not pass HB 227.