

June 16, 2021

**Testimony Opposing HB227
House Government and Oversight Committee
Submitted by: Laura Irvin**

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony opposing HB227.

My name is Laura Irvin and I live in Lorain County.

I am asking you to vote NO on HB 227. This bill will put Ohioans in danger by making it easier for a person with absolutely no training or education to conceal carry a gun. Statistics show that states that enact permitless carry laws have an increase in the rate of aggravated assaults. Missouri experienced a nearly 25% increase in 2017 after their legislature passed permitless carry in 2016. This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

I am also concerned that this bill allows for criminals who have been convicted of violent misdemeanors to be allowed to carry hidden loaded weapons throughout Ohio. Under current law, concealed carry applicants who have been convicted of these crimes would be denied a concealed handgun license. Violent criminals being legally allowed to hide loaded guns and walk around our neighborhoods! This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

If this law passes, drug offenders convicted of crimes that involved possession, use or sale of illegal drugs would be allowed to hide guns on their person and stroll through our cities and towns. Do you really want these offenders carrying concealed weapons on our playgrounds, parks and in our communities? This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

HB 227 also seeks to remove the duty to notify law enforcement that one is carrying a concealed firearm! I value our sheriffs and police, and I value their lives. To put these officers in more dangerous situations is unconscionable. This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

Again, I am asking Ohio legislators to vote No on HB 227. I hope that I can count on you to keep our communities safe, and Ohio a state that we do want for our children and neighbors.