

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Kathryn Knue Przywara. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and I have lived in the Montgomery/Symmes Township area since 1988. My husband and I raised our two sons in Ohio and we are now the proud grandparents of two young grandsons. I am a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University. I am currently licensed to practice law in Ohio and the District of Columbia. After practicing law for over approximately 35 years, I retired at the end of 2019. I am a reliable voter and common sense gun reforms that reduce gun violence are important voting issues for me and my family. Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony today. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 227, which is being considered tomorrow with virtually no notice. Let me briefly summarize some of the many reasons for my opposition to this dangerous bill: 1. This bill would allow people, including those with dangerous histories, to carry hidden loaded handguns in public without a permit or firearm safety training, reversing existing Ohio law (ORC 2923.125(B)(3), (G). This is also in contravention with the majority of U.S. states. 2. The overwhelming majority of Americans believe a person should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public. See Strategies 360 Survey, March 2015. 3. States that have enacted permitless concealed carry laws have seen an increase in gun violence and that is the last thing Ohio needs now. Last year was the deadliest gun violence year in decades and 2021, so far, is worse. See “2020 was the deadliest gun violence year in decades. So far, 2021 is worse.”, Washington Post, June 14, 2021. “Through the first five months of 2021, gunfire killed more than 8,100 people in the United States, about 54 lives lost per day, according to a Washington Post analysis of data from the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit research organization. That’s more than the average toll during the same period of the previous six years.” Id. “In Ohio, the rate of gun deaths increased 34% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 28% and gun homicides increased 43%, compared to a 24% increase and 26% increase nationwide, respectively.” <https://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gun-Violence-in-Ohio2.9.2021.pdf>. Moreover, gun sales are soaring. “An arms Race in America: Gun Buying Spiked During the Pandemic. It’s Still Up.” May 29, 2021, The New York Times. 4. 90% of Ohio voters, according to a March 2016 survey, support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. Survey USA Survey, March 2016. Permitless concealed carry would be dangerous for Ohio. I urge you to discontinue hearings on HB 227. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Knue Przywara