

Testimony Opposing HB 227
House Government and Oversight Committee
Submitted by : Sandra Fiehrer
June 17, 2021

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sandra Fiehrer. I'm a concerned Ohioan, mother and community volunteer in OH 86. Today I'm writing testimony regarding yet another just-scheduled hearing for a bill to dangerously expand gun access in Ohio. I oppose the reckless public endangerment you seek to allow for the sake of your agenda, lobbyists & gun radicals. I ask you to reject HB 227; legislation allowing guns to be carried without training or registration.

HB 227 is a direct threat to our safety and it creates lethal problems for Ohioans instead of solving them. I oppose this dangerous bill to expand gun access because it would allow people without safety training and those with dangerous histories to carry loaded handguns on city streets and in crowded public areas. 88% of Americans think a person should obtain a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public and 90% of Ohioans support the current permit law. Once again you are not legislating for the majority of Ohio.

"Permitless" carry allows Ohioans to carry firearms without a permit or safety training. Who does this serve? Remember when you had to go to the basement last year while armed protestors attempted to breach the Statehouse during the governor's press conference on Stay Home Orders? Do you want more untrained people with firearms everywhere?

We have spoken with our Rep, a veteran, several times about this. Our service members who honorably serve our country undergo thorough background checks, specific training and are required to follow strict protocol for the use of their weapons. WHY would you think it's in any way reasonable to allow ALL Ohioans to carry firearms with less vetting, training and protocol? This would completely dismantle the system of responsible gun ownership. We are required to carry a license to drive a car and also to fish & hunt. How does it make any sense to allow gun owners to own firearms without a permit? Why do you want to allow violent criminals or drug offenders to carry concealed without training or a permit? Why would Ohio Law enforcement want everyone they encounter to be legally allowed to carry concealed & loaded without training or a permit? Don't claim you "back the blue" while you further seek to put them in harm's way.

States that have enacted permitless carry have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence. In Alaska, the first state to enact permitless carry, the Department of Public Safety saw a 65% increase in aggravated assaults with a gun after passing the law. Arizona saw an 8 percent rise in aggravated gun violence as well.

Stop drafting radical performative legislation to appease gun extremists and start solving Ohio's gun violence problem. You work for us not ALEC or Heritage. Your constituents demanded you "Do Something" after the mass shooting in Dayton in 2019 and you've done nothing but try to pass legislation to make guns more accessible since that day! You're on the wrong side on HB 227. Militias and Facebook gun grifters love this but Ohioans en masse do not. Get on the right side by voting NO on HB 227. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.