

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227
Submitted by Matt Harmon

To Chairman Wilkins and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

I strongly oppose HB 227. My wife and I have worked hard to provide our 2 young children with a beautiful home in the conservative community of Jackson Township in Stark County. Eliminating permits would put more guns in our communities, in the hands of people with little to no training. I really don't want my family to be around someone who is carrying a gun who doesn't even know how to handle it safely or shoot accurately. The New York City Police Department reported that even their trained police officers find that their shooting accuracy decreases significantly in stressful shooting situations. Now just imagine the innocent bystanders who may be shot by untrained civilians.

In Ohio, background checks are part of the permitting process. So doing away with permits in Ohio will also eliminate background checks. The last thing we need is for more people who should not have guns, like convicted drug dealers, violent felons, and domestic abusers to be allowed to buy guns. Research at Boston University showed that states without permits and background checks experienced a 15% higher gun homicide rate than states that do have such safeguards.

According to a poll by USA Survey in 2016, 90% of Ohioans want our state to require background checks and permits for concealed carry. As parents, we know what is safest for our families. Vote NO on HB 227.

Thank you,
Matt Harmon