

Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 227

Submitted by Jen Maddaffer

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

I am a resident of North Lawrence, a rural community in Stark County. I'm writing this testimony as a private, and very concerned, citizen. The proposed permit-less carry bill, HB 227, would make Ohioans *far* less safe. I cannot begin to understand why we would want to put guns in the hands of people with no firearm safety training. We aren't allowed to operate a car without training, why should we be allowed to carry guns without training?

The thought of previously convicted violent criminals or drug offenders carrying hidden, loaded handguns throughout our communities is chilling. Look at the recent protests that happened with some of them turning into riots. It would have been a *far* more dangerous and deadly situation for our officers and citizens if HB 227 were the law of the land. According to a March 2016 survey, **90% of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public.** So who exactly does this bill serve? It is clear that it is designed to benefit the gun industry, not Ohio citizens. Please listen to the voice of the vast majority of your constituents and reject HB 227.

Thank you,
Jen Maddaffer