

Testimony on Ohio House Bill 227: Permitless Carry  
Government Oversight Committee  
June 16, 2021

Submitted by:  
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Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the committee, thank you for considering my written testimony in opposition to HB 227. I am a retired Ohio physician who worked for many years in one of our major trauma hospitals where I saw far too much horrible damage from firearm violence, usually among young people. And that was among survivors (the dead ones aren't hospitalized.)

Luckily, despite your giving less than 24 hours' notice of the hearing on this bill, I was able to submit this testimony. Since research shows that the majority of Ohioans support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public, why this bill? (1)

I understand the concern people have about increasing firearm violence in our society. The mistake is thinking that more firearms will decrease those injuries. President Reagan liked the saying "trust but verify". You should use that idea when you consider what some people tell you about the value of teachers and others carrying firearms. It seems you and others think that will decrease injuries, but the EVIDENCE shows that it will increase injuries and is dangerous.

Contrary to our emotional responses, the EVIDENCE shows that more guns are associated with more gun violence. (2-7)

I urge you to OPPOSE this legislation that would repeal the core public safety laws related to firearms and allow people with no firearms safety training, violent criminals, and convicted drug offenders to carry loaded handguns, greatly endangering all of us.

This makes no sense. We wouldn't let anyone teach or drive or be a nurse or doctor or EMT without training and licensure.

THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER, such as Extreme Risk laws, secure gun storage laws, and evidence-based threat assessment programs (see <https://tinyurl.com/ETSchoolSafety>). I appreciate your desire to make our communities safer – please use these more sensible and evidence-based approaches to guide your future efforts, and Vote NO on HB 227.

Please consider the EVIDENCE on how to decrease firearm injuries and OPPOSE this dangerous bill.

Thank you.

References:

1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/05/11/key-facts-about-americans-and-guns/>
2. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/more-guns-do-not-stop-more-crimes-evidence-shows/>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/26/opinion/politics/gun-reform-us.htm>
4. <https://time.com/5209901/gun-violence-america-reduction/>
5. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-06-11/-more-guns-less-crime-stanford-rtc-study-suggests-otherwise>
6. <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>
7. <https://efsgv.org/learn/type-of-gun-violence/gun-violence-in-the-united-states/>