

Testimony against HB227  
House Government Oversight Committee

Submitted by Shela Blanchard

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White and other members of the House Government Oversight Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB227.

Each day I encounter family members who have lost a loved one to senseless gun violence. Be it homicide, suicide or an unintentional shooting. All three are on the rise in alarming numbers. The traumatic impact upon a family is extensive and goes far beyond the initial loss. The economic impact is ever-lasting, affecting our entire state. Parents are scared for their children's lives and this dangerous bill will only increase that fear.

As you are fully aware, HB 227 would put Ohio children, families, and communities at risk by allowing people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit or safety training. Eliminating Ohio's concealed handgun license requirement would allow people with dangerous histories and those without any firearm safety training to carry loaded handguns in crowded town centers and on city streets. This is not acceptable.

I do not understand why, families, advocates and law enforcement are screaming at the top of their lungs asking lawmakers to approve bills that would decrease violence. Yet bills continue to be introduced that have been proven across this nation lead to an increase in violence. States that have passed permitless carry legislation, by removing concealed carry permitting requirements; have seen a substantial increase in firearm crimes. This is not what Ohioans want.

I ask that you vote no on this bill and not allow it to move forward from committee.

Thank you for your time and such short notice to submit this testimony.

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