

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition testimony for HB 227, Permitless Carry
Alexandra Hubbard

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify.

I am writing because I strongly oppose HB 227. I am an Ohio resident and voter. I'm also a school psychologist working in K-12 public schools in Ohio.

Eliminating Ohio's permit system would end background checks and safety training requirements all in one stroke. Allowing untrained civilians to carry guns in our communities is not only a safety hazard, it also increases fear, anxiety and distrust among our citizens. Even police have to train for many hours to learn to control the adrenaline burst that comes along with stressful shooting situations. New York City's Police Department reported that their officers only hit their target 20% of the time in stressful shooting situations. Civilians with little or no training are more likely to hit innocent bystanders than stop a crime.(1) Guns intended for self-defense are commonly involved in fatal accidents. Studies have shown that across states, higher levels of gun possession are linked to higher rates of unintentional firearm deaths. (2, 3) When we put those guns in the hands of people who have little to no training on how to use them, and poor shooting accuracy, more innocent Ohioans will die.

As a school psychologist, I'm especially concerned about the safety of Ohio's children if this bill passes. Hardly a week goes by without us seeing news reports of children shot as innocent bystanders or by stray bullets. Just a few weeks ago, on May 5th in Columbus, a 9 year old girl was shot in the chest by an errant bullet. On Feb. 9th a child and his parents were shot in their car in East Cleveland. In Akron, on September 10th of last year, an 8 year old girl was shot while sitting in a car. The Trace reported that in the first 6 months of 2017, 150 American children were shot by stray bullets.

Do what is right for Ohio's children and their families and stop this bill from going forward.

Thank you for your attention,
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Sources:

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, "A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013," available at <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents> (last accessed October 2017). ↵
2. Matthew Miller, Deborah Azrael and David Hemenway, "Firearm availability and unintentional firearm deaths, suicide, and homicide among 5-14 year olds," *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 52 (2) (2002): 274–275, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11426678>. ↵
3. DJ Wiebe, "Homicide and suicide risks associated with firearms in the home: a national case-control study," *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 41 (6) (2003): 771–782, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12764330>;