

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OPPOSITION TESTIMONY HB 227, PERMITLESS CARRY

Joseph Blubaugh

To Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and
Committee Members,

My name is Joseph Blubaugh and I am a resident of North Canton, a nice quiet town in Stark County. I oppose HB 227. Ohio has a gun violence epidemic. On average, 113 children die from gun violence every year in Ohio. According to the Brookings Institute, there are 400 million guns in circulation in the US population of 330 million people. The mass shootings that we are seeing every week are constant proof that having more guns in our country is not making us safer! Getting an Ohio CCW permit currently requires that the buyer pass a background check and complete 8 hrs of gun training. Sounds like common sense to me. HB 227 would allow violent criminals and drug offenders to carry a concealed, loaded hand gun in public, evade background checks and allow owners to concealed carry even if they've never had any gun training.

Most Ohioans do not support this bill. According to a March 2016 survey, 90% of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. And according to the Pew Research Center, 81% of Americans nationwide oppose permitless carry.(2).

Thank you,
Joseph Blubaugh
North Canton, OH
202-577-0610
jnblubaugh@gmail.com