

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony on HB 277-Permitless Carry
Submitted by Leslie Baird

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important public safety crises.

My name is Leslie Baird and I am a retired school professional and a resident of Stark County, OH. I oppose HB 227. Ever since the Newtown school shooting we have been hearing from the corrupt NRA that the “only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun”. But over the last five years we have seen that this is not true. America already has more guns than citizens yet our rate of gun deaths just keeps going up! Almost 40, 000 Americans die from Gun violence every year and 1,455 of the are Ohioans. (Gifford Law Center). Ohio Gun homicides increased **34%** from 2010 to 2019, compared to a **17%** increase nationwide. This represents an increase of **430** gun deaths over this period in Ohio. (CDC, Everytown).

This bill would eliminate background checks for concealed carry. A recent study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks had 15% higher homicide rates than states with such provisions. This is not a good path for Ohio!

Do the right thing for Ohio! Reject HB 227.

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