

Testimony Opposingt HB 227
House Government and Oversight Committee
Submitted by: Ann Morahan
June 17, 2021

Chairman Wilkins, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the Government Oversight committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Ann Morahan. I am a concerned wife, mother, grandmother, retired teacher and Ohioan. I am writing about another just-scheduled hearing for a bill that was probably written by the gun lobby and gun sellers in Ohio. I ask all of you to reject this bill.

Would you allow everyone in Ohio to drive without a license? Would you allow all Ohioans to drive without knowing the rules? Would you allow anyone to drive without having the skills to use a vehicle? If your answer is "NO" to these questions, then why would you allow the same for gun? If you pass HB 227, then all Ohioans need to be free to drive without a license. That is scary but only fair. A car can kill if the driver is not properly prepared. The same is true of a gun. Eighty-eight percent of Americans believe that a person should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public. Why are you bucking public opinion???

With this bill a person with no firearms safety training could carry and use a gun. Violent criminals could also buy and use a gun. Drug offenders would then have the legal right to buy and use a gun. If you are lucky, anyone could say that you scare them (now that we have the stand your ground law) and shoot you. Sounds great, don't you think? There have been over 80 homicides in Columbus alone. I wonder how many more people would die if this bill is passed? Did you know that since the state of Arizona enacted permitless carry legislation in 2010, the average rate of aggravated assaults with a gun in the state increased by 8 percent. (Sure makes me want to vacation in Arizona.)

I want to live, don't you? This bill puts all our lives in danger.

Please kill this bill!

I apologize for sending this bill at 7:53 on Wednesday but I was not notified of this hearing. I have received several notices from this committee but not for this hearing.