

As a social historian with knowledge and a publication record on the history of crime in the US and a concerned citizen, **I object in the strongest possible terms to the dangerous, illogical, and unconstitutional House Bill 227.** I summarize my main objections here:

1. **The bill is irrelevant to Ohio.** There is no statewide basis or need. It is another example of Ohio Republican representatives ignorantly and recklessly IMITATING the worse efforts of other Republican-dominated state legislatures. In this case, it is out-of-control Texas. Shootings are already rising in Texas under its permitless carry law. Only this week a bullied 18 year old high school student in Arlington, TX brought a gun to school and killed a bullying classmate, wounding others.

2. The great majority of Ohioans, and Americans, **oppose permitless carry.** Aside from right-wing militants, the NRA, and gun shop owners, there is no demand.

3. Despite right-wing propaganda to the contrary, **the US Constitution and its court case record do NOT endorse an unlimited right to carry a gun.** Even conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, in his famous District of Columbia v. Heller ruling, did not argue for unrestricted right to bear arms.

4. Permitless carry, and its usual companions, no requirement for certification, training, or covering of the weapon, is a **well-documented path to more shootings and more killings.**

5. Is that what the ideologues pushing this **utterly fallacious form of “freedom”** wish?

This outrageous affront to public safety and civil order must be stopped.

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Oct. 8, 2021