

House Government Oversight Committee

Opposition Testimony HB 227

Monica Harmon

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

I am an Ohio homeowner, mother of two young children (one just starting school) and a pediatric Speech Language Pathologist. I strongly oppose HB 227.

I am particularly concerned for our Ohio's children. Gun violence is the 2nd leading cause of death for American children in general (twice as many as cancer). Every day, 45 American children are shot. According to the CDC, in Ohio, 63% of the children who are killed by guns die from gun homicide, 37% from suicides and the rest by accidental shootings. We are doing a bad job of protecting our children and families in Ohio. From 2008 to 2017, the rate of gun deaths in Ohio increased by 41% compared to 17% on average for other states during the same time period.

By eliminating gun permits, this bill would end the requirement for any firearm training for conceal carry. It would also eliminate background checks, making it easier for violent criminals to buy a gun. All of these things would contribute to more shootings, both intentional and accidental, around our children. Inevitable result will be that even more Ohio children will be killed or injured by gunshot.

As our state opens up, even as COVID continues, our families need to be able to move around our communities confidently without worrying even more about armed criminals shooting people or untrained gun owners mishandling their guns near us. I would be very disappointed in our state for passing this bill.

Reject HB 227!

Thank you,

Monica Harmon