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October 11, 2021

The Honorable Shane Wilkin, Chair
Government Oversight Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Via email only: Rep91@ohiohouse.gov

RE: Testimony against House Bill 227

Dear Mr. Chair:

Please accept my written testimony against House Bill 227. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charmaine McGuffey, Sheriff
Hamilton County, Ohio

Enclosure

cc: Vice Chair Andrea White, Rep41@ohiohouse.gov
Ranking Member Bride Rose Sweeney, Rep14@ohiohouse.gov
Honorable Cindy Abrams, Rep29@ohiohouse.gov
Honorable Rick Carfagna, Rep68@ohiohouse.gov
Honorable Tavia Galonski, Rep35@ohiohouse.gov
Honorable Timothy E. Ginter, Rep5@ohiohouse.gov
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Testimony on House Bill 227
House Government Oversight Committee

Submitted by: Charmaine McGuffey
Sheriff, Hamilton County, Ohio

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony against House Bill 227. This is a bill that will make the already difficult job of law enforcement even more dangerous, and so I must oppose it.

I support the Second Amendment of the Constitution, as I support and cherish all of the individual freedoms we share as Americans. But as the United States Supreme Court has held many times in different contexts, our individual freedoms are neither absolute nor unlimited.

Especially today, law enforcement officers face difficult conditions in the performance of their duties. Not infrequently, my deputies must remove firearms and other weapons from suspects; these are difficult and potentially deadly moments. When a suspect announces they have a concealed firearm and produces a license, the deputy knows that the individual has at least had eight hours of firearm safety training and has passed a background check. These small but significant actions can deescalate otherwise tense encounters.

Allowing virtually anyone in Ohio to conceal weapons on their person without training or background checks will make Ohio less safe. More than that, it will make the job of law enforcement even more stressful. It is already very difficult to find individuals willing to make the sacrifice to serve their communities in this profession. I urge you to reflect on how you can make the working conditions of those of us in law enforcement more, not less, safe.

Please vote against this poorly considered piece of legislation.