

Testimony on House Bill 227
House State and Local Government Committee
October 14, 2021

Submitted by:
Douglas Calem

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeny, and members of the House Government Oversight committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 227.

I urge you to reject OH HB. This bill does nothing to improve safety in our communities but instead places the interests of gun manufacturers and dealers ahead of the majority of Ohio's citizens.

Guns are inherently more dangerous than automobiles yet we require a 2-step process before licensing individuals to drive on public roads. Yet, HB 227 individuals to carry concealed weapons without firearms safety training. Why would we not allow someone who has never driven a car to get on the road yet allow someone who has never handled a gun to carry a concealed, loaded weapon??

HB227 makes it easier for violent criminals and drug offenders to obtain weapons. Under current Ohio law, those convicted of violent misdemeanors and possession, use, or sale of drugs of abuse are not allowed to get a permit and carry a concealed weapon. This bill would eliminate that safeguard.

Further, there is solid evidence that states that have enacted permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in gun violence. HB 227 will unleash more violence on our streets.

I thought the Republican party was the party of "law and order." This bill only serves to demonstrate that they are the party of disorder and anarchy, advancing donors' interest while taking cover behind the much abused concept of "freedom."

Please reject this flawed bill.

Sincerely,

Douglas Calem