

**Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 227
Submitted by David Madaffer**

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

I am a resident of North Lawrence, a rural community in Stark County and I oppose HB 227. Research shows that states without permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate than states with permit/background checks (source: Boston University). Ohio's gun death rate grew by 34% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. We lose about 1,500 Ohioans every year to gun violence. It makes absolutely no sense to do away with permits, background checks and firearm safety training for concealed carry. Even Ohio gun owners agree with keeping these safeguards. According to a March 2016 survey, 90% of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. I urge you to reject HB 227.

Thank you,

David Madaffer