

House Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony HB 227  
Submitted by: Erin Dickinson

To Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify.

I am the mother of 4 young boys and my husband and I live in Broadview Heights, OH. I strongly oppose HB 227. This bill would end Ohio's current permitting system for Concealed Carry, thereby eliminating background checks and training requirements. Experience and research tell us that, while not perfect, background checks do help stop illegal gun sales. In Ohio, since 1998, more than 81,000 gun sales were denied to convicted felons, prohibited domestic abusers, and users of illegal drugs. A study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate than states that do have these laws. Background checks in Ohio could be much more effective if they applied to on-line sales as well. We should close background checks loopholes. We definitely should not eliminate background checks. A poll by USA Survey in 2016 found that 88% of Ohioans agree that our state should keep our background check system.

Furthermore, anyone who conceals and carries a loaded gun in our public spaces should be required to have *at least* the current 8 hours of firearm training. My family has the right to feel safe in our community.

Respectfully,

Erin Dickinson