

House Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony HB 227  
Submitted by Dianne Groenke

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

I am a retired Public School teacher and mother in Stark County. I am writing as a concerned citizen.

I strongly oppose HB 227. This bill would eliminate gun permits (which include background checks and training requirements) for concealed carry. Research shows that background checks are an effective way of stopping illegal gun sales. In Ohio, since 1998, background checks denied more than 80,000 gun sales to convicted felons, prohibited domestic abusers, and people prohibited due to unlawful drug use. Research by Boston University showed that states without permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate than states that do have such safeguards. We should be closing background checks loopholes, *not* getting rid of background checks! A 2016 poll by USA Survey found that 90% of Ohioans want our state to require background checks and permits for concealed carry. Please listen to the voters!

People who carry concealed guns in our neighborhoods definitely need at least some training with their weapon, the more the better. Having untrained people wielding weapons in our stores, parking lots, and public buildings endangers the rest of us. About 1,500 Ohioans die due to gun violence every year. I cannot think of any good reason to pass Permitless Carry. Please reject HB 227.

Respectfully,

Dianne Groenke