

Opposition Testimony HB227
Government Oversight Committee
October 13, 2021
Dr. Elizabeth Sweeney

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White and Ranking Member Sweeney:

My name is Elizabeth Ireson and I am a pediatrician in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am writing to express my concerns about the dangers of HB227. As a pediatrician, I worry about the health and safety of children in my community. HB227 represents a large step backwards in the gun safety reform we need to keep Ohio's children, and all Ohioans, safe. HB227 would eliminate background check and training requirements for concealed carry of firearms in Ohio. Every year, 1,700 illegal sales to convicted felons and 800 illegal sales to domestic abusers are blocked thanks to our background check system. We need to ensure that we are keeping guns out of the hands of individuals who have demonstrated acts of violence. This bill also puts our police at risk. Under HB227, individuals carrying a concealed handgun would no longer be required to promptly notify an officer that they have a weapon. This places our officers in dangerous situations. When our police are in danger, our community is in danger. I fear this law would contribute to the striking racial disparities we already see in Ohio and around the country. The Ohio Supreme Court has held that "there is no constitutional right to bear concealed weapons." As a pediatrician I am proud to act on my responsibility to protect our children. In order to keep our children safe we need laws that focus on gun safety – not putting guns into the wrong people's hands. I ask that you stop HB227 from going any further in the legislative process. Thank you for your time in hearing and reading testimony on this important issue.