

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, Committee Members. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my testimony on SB 227, a bill regarding concealed weapons and concealed carry without license.

My name is David Lima, a resident of Mentor, Ohio and a member of the leadership team, Showing Up for Racial Justice, Northeast Ohio Chapter.

My testimony today seeks to point out the hypocrisy of this body, revealed through this legislation and other legislation, seeking the expansion of gun rights, namely permitless concealed carry.

Sponsors and proponents alike have testified that such legislation will make us all more safe. We all want to be safe, common ground for those advocating for expanded gun rights and those advocating for gun control. Interestingly, when I entered the Statehouse today I passed through a metal detector put in place to prevent guns and deadly weapons from being brought inside the Statehouse. I am grateful this body has instituted a policy of gun control before entering the Statehouse in order to ensure safety. The point of the hypocrisy - if guns are going to make us more safe you should permit such weapons to be brought into the Statehouse. I suspect

this restriction put in place by you is based on the common sense notion that your safety would be compromised should guns be permitted inside the Statehouse. Yet you propose legislation that will compromise my safety and the safety of other Ohioan while not within these walls. I do feel safer, here and now in this place, and I'm sure you do as well, knowing that permitless concealed carry individuals are not sitting in this room with a loaded deadly weapon.

I and SURJ urge the rejection of HB 227.