

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227
By Steve McCarren

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly oppose HB 227 and any other bill that allows permitless carry for concealed weapons. I am a retired physician and I have seen, many times, the carnage done by gun injuries. Medical research shows that gunshot victims are 5 x more likely to require transfusion and require, on average, 10 x more units of blood than victims of other traumas. They are also 14 x more likely to die than other trauma patients.⁽¹⁾ More than 40,000 Americans are dying from gun shots every year. Gun violence is a pandemic in our country and our state.

My wife and I have raised two sons in the conservative community of Jackson Township in Stark County. All we are asking is that gun owners comply with the permitting process, get a background check and complete a few hours of training to carry a concealed weapon around our families. We recognize the second amendment but the Ohio Supreme Court has already ruled that background checks and permits do not violate the second amendment. Meanwhile, we want OUR constitutional rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to be protected, including confidence that we will not be shot while shopping, working, or walking in our neighborhood.

According to a poll by USA Survey in 2016, 90% of Ohioans favor background checks and permits for concealed carry. My family and I ask you to Vote NO on HB 227.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve McCarren

1. Demario, Vincent et al. **Blood utilization and mortality in victims of gun violence.** *Transfusion.* 2018 Oct; 58(10):2326-2334.

