

Government Oversight Committee

Opposition Testimony on House Bill 227

Submitted by: Jennifer Madaffer

I am a resident of North Lawrence, a rural community in Stark County. I am writing this testimony to oppose HB 227 as a private, and very concerned, citizen. The proposed Permitless Carry bill would put Ohio children, families, and communities at risk. There is no evidence that eliminating gun permits, along with their Background Checks and Training Requirements deters crime, so what is the point?

Regarding Second Amendment rights, the Ohio State Supreme Court has already ruled that gun safety regulations, such as permits and background checks are constitutional. The cost of a concealed carry license in Ohio is ~\$67 for a 5 year license, compared to ~\$150 over the same period for a car registration fee. This certainly seems fair given that gun violence costs the state of Ohio \$11 billion a year, \$486 million of which is paid by taxpayers. Getting a background check can be done at any licensed gun dealer and 100% of Ohioans live within 10 miles of a gun dealer (Everytown analysis of ATF data 2018). There are nearly 4 times as many gun dealers in Ohio as McDonald's (Federal Firearm Listings, ATF). So for this small reasonable nod to community safety, gun owners protect their constitutional right to own a gun and the rest of us get some protection of our OVER-RIDING constitutional right to life.

Please put the safety of your constituents first and reject House Bill 227.

Thank you,
Jen Madaffer