

**Terry Johnson**

State Senator

14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



## **Sponsor Testimony**

Senate Bill 215

Ohio House Government Oversight Committee

February 8, 2022

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 215.

This is a remarkably simple bill. If enacted, Senate Bill 215 would establish permitless carry for qualifying adults in Ohio wherever concealed carry is currently permitted. Such adults are defined in the bill as those who are at least 21 years old and are not legally prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm.

Additionally, this legislation eliminates the requirements for a person carrying a concealed firearm to disclose that possession to a law enforcement officer in the case of a traffic stop. We amended Senate Bill 215 in the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee to now only require notification if the person is asked by a law enforcement officer, which is current law in 15 other states. The bill also eliminates the requirements for a concealed handgun licensee to carry their license while carrying a concealed firearm.

As our founding fathers put forth in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." The Ohio Constitution also puts forth this sentiment in Section 4: "The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security."

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.