

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 215.

SB 215 proposes that a single mother need not schedule multiple appointments, taking time away from work and family in order to defend herself in public. SB 215 takes another step towards legalizing freedom by eliminating the vaguely defined “prompt” notification of licensing.

Since April 2004, Ohio's Sheriffs have been tasked to issue Concealed Carry Licenses. Ohioans were to pass a class and a background check, spending a great deal of time and money over separate sessions in order to legally bear an effective means of self-defense.

SB 215 recognizes the proper role of the Legislature - securing the natural rights of Ohioans - echoed in the Declaration of Independence: “...*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...*”

SB 215 prioritizes the role of civil government as protector of Liberty over the false assertion that arbitrary databases, fees,

classes and license renewals are precursors to exercising our birthright.

SB 215 protects the law-abiding over the baseless shrieking of those who seek to irrationally restrict the defense of innocent life. In short, this bill empowers Ohioans to enhance public safety by enhancing their own security.

Some, to their credit, consistently opposed our current licensing system prior to and after 2004. They would prefer the State burden law-abiding Ohioans and restrict the ability to defend loved ones in local communities. They argued the system was not onerous enough, that Ohio would become the wild-wild west and that innocent blood would flow in the streets. We now have objective data that dispels this fallacy. Despite our lived experience since 2004, those who have traded in their red coats for red t-shirts persist in their fearful gaslighting against self-defense.

Opponents to SB215 will claim carrying a concealed weapon is not a right, given to us by our common humanity, but a privilege that must be applied for and strictly regulated. Public officials, who swore an oath to uphold Ohio's Constitution, must affirm Article 1 Section 4 which states *“The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security”*.

This debate is one of the master and the servant. The idea of gun control predates the Civil War. Please consider “The Racist Origins of US Gun Control” by Steve Ekwall who highlights a series of “Black Codes” intended to keep segments of the

population from the free exercise of their natural rights. Our Republic form of government in Ohio holds the rights of the people shall be served by the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government.

Governments are to be a terror to evil. Indeed, an armed citizenry is a terror to those who intend criminal activity. The “defense and security” of the people begins with their ability to exercise their right to bear arms. A people disarmed in public can be neither safe nor secure.

As Americans we sing about “the land of the free and the home of the brave”. For Ohio to be free, Ohioans need to be brave. Opponent testimony fears the exercise of freedom via self defense, contradicting the foundational values we hold dear. SB 215 encourages an increase in public safety by rejecting the notion our neighbors are to be feared unless they pass various government tests and pay to exercise their rights. SB 215 relieves brave law-abiding people of Ohio from burdensome and costly restrictions they've endured since 2004.

May God bless the humility and courage of those willing to advocate SB 215's enactment.

Respectfully

Chuck LaRosa
Legislative Coordinator
Ohioans for Concealed Carry