

KatOpposition Testimony SB215

House Government Oversight Committee

February 15, 2022

Submitted by Kathleen McGorray

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, and Ranking Member Brown, I am offering testimony as a concerned citizen strongly opposed to SB215.

This legislation would put Ohioans at risk by allowing people to carrying hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit or safety training. It would expand the ability to carry concealed handguns to certain criminals and others who cannot currently obtain such a license. When gun violence is increasing in Ohio, widening the net of those who can carry concealed weapons will NOT diminish gun violence and will NOT keep our communities safer.

States that have enacted permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence. Please don't let that happen in Ohio.

Ohioans overwhelmingly support the current law, which requires a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. We do not want people without firearm safety training to carry loaded handguns on city streets, such as in my densely populated community of Lakewood.

In Ohio we need laws to keep people safe. Easing restrictions on those who can obtain a CCW and allowing anyone to carry is NOT the way to make Ohio safer.

Please oppose SB 215. Thank you.

