

Opponent Testimony to SB215

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 15.

My name is Chris Wolf, and I am a resident of the state of Ohio who is growing increasingly concerned about the impact of gun violence on our state and our country. Gun sales have been robust since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. Not surprisingly, the number of people killed or injured by guns has increased over that same period. These deaths and injuries arose because of suicide, accidents, and other violent acts involving guns. The data (and common-sense) show that more people carrying more guns in more places has a negative impact on our state and our society. In fact, many have characterized the current rate of gun injuries and deaths as an “epidemic”. I would agree with that characterization.

Senate Bill 215 would allow a licensee to carry concealed all deadly weapons that would otherwise be legal to possess, remove the requirement of a licensed gun owner to ‘promptly’ notify police of a gun in their car, and allow anyone 21 and older to carry a concealed deadly weapon without a license. The result of SB 215 would be more Ohioans carrying more weapons more often. And, per SB 215, this would be done without any vetting of the person carrying the weapon and no training requirements.

A major argument those supportive of bills such as SB 215 voice is that the expansion of one’s ability to carry deadly weapons in Ohio will result in greater protection for those carrying the weapons and their families. In fact, the opposite is true. With no licensing requirement, no training requirement, and an overly broad definition of “qualified person”, the result of this Bill, were it to be made law, will be more people injured or killed by firearms.

I do not want to see more Ohioans, including members of law enforcement, affected by gun violence. Therefore, I oppose SB 215 which **will** result in more Ohioans being affected by gun violence.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Wolf