



February 17, 2022

Good morning, Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, ranking member Brown and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. I testify on S.B. 215.

Ohio is an open carry state. While not nearly as popular as concealed carry, no one needs training, background checks, or a license to open carry. But open carry in Ohio is by definition impossible in a motor vehicle, and is difficult in winter months when wearing jackets. And some people just don't like open carry. But open carry is legal almost anywhere in Ohio, and has been longer than any of us have been around.

S.B. 215 is a permit less carry bill. It simply makes the same people carrying the same gun legal vs criminal when putting on a jacket, or other cover garment. I fail to see how it is controversial to anyone.

S.B. 215 does NOT allow "anyone to carry a gun." There are sections of laws, both state and federal, dealing with firearms disabilities. S.B. 215 does not change any of those. People prohibited from possession firearms will still be prohibited from possessing firearms under this bill.

S.B. 215 greatly simplifies law-enforcement interactions during traffic stops. License holders and non-license holders will be required to notify police when asked if they are carrying firearms. In short, this bill would align the law with existing practice followed by the vast majority of our excellent law-enforcement officers.

S.B. 215 leaves in place the existing concealed carry licensing scheme, which has been law in Ohio for nearly 20 years. This is critical for reciprocity and compliance with federal law in certain cases.

I urge a yes vote on S.B. 215.

Respectfully submitted,

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