

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

Opponent Testimony SB 215 Regarding Concealed Weapons House Government Oversight Committee

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, my name is Brian Hickey, and I am an Associate Director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio. The Conference is the official representative of the Catholic Church of Ohio in matters of public policy. We oppose SB 215, known as the permitless carry bill.

The Catholic Church does not contest a right to responsible gun ownership in Ohio. However, our Church has historically advocated for prudent safeguards to protect life and promote the common good, and we believe eliminating training requirements and licensure contradicts a reasonable standard for carrying a concealed deadly weapon responsibly.

In our promotion of a culture of life, we encourage Ohioans to resolve all problems peacefully without a threat of violence. The Catholic Conference of Ohio is concerned that this permitless carry bill would further advance an individualistic mentality of using a gun instead of relying on law enforcement and our justice system in public areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.