

Ohio House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 215-Permitless Carry

Submitted by: William Koltek

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important issue.

My name is William Koltek and I am a retired school professional and a resident of Stark County, OH. I oppose HB 62. This dangerous bill bends over backwards to avoid any "inconvenience" to gun owners but ignores *MY* rights to health, safety and freedom to pursue my prosperity in a safe community.

Pro-gun lobbyists claim that the "only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun". But over the last five years we have seen that this is not true. America already has more guns than citizens yet our rate of gun deaths just keeps going up! Almost 40, 000 Americans die from Gun violence every year and 1,400 of them are Ohioans. (Gifford Law Center). Ohio Gun homicides increased **34%** from 2010 to 2019, compared to a **17%** increase nationwide. This represents an increase of **430** gun deaths over this period in Ohio. (CDC, Everytown).

A recent study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks had 15% higher gun homicide rates than states with such provisions. This is a dangerous path for Ohio!

Furthermore, this bill penalizes police for trying to do their job. It would remove the duty of people to notify law enforcement that they are carrying a gun when stopped for a possible violation of the law. (In fact, Police officers wouldn't even be able to ask about suspicious handguns/assault rifles that they might see on the victim or in their car!) The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association and Buckeye State Sheriffs Association

have all testified against removing the "Duty To Notify" provision in the past. The Republican party used to claim to support law and order. Lately you seem to be promoting only lawlessness. Most Ohioans, including gun owners, want common sense gun laws.

Please Reject SB 215.

Respectfully,

William Koltek