

Ann Morahan

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White and Ranking Member Brown:

Thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 215. My name is Ann Morahan and I have been in Ohio for over seventy years and never have I seen such a flurry of gun bills. The question: Are we safer if SB 215 passes? The headlines in a recent Dispatch article reads, "Latest killings prompt call for action." Is passage of SB215 the right action?

This legislation will endanger all Ohioans because it would:

- Expand who can carry concealed handguns to include certain criminals and people charged with crimes who cannot currently obtain a concealed weapons license.
- Permit Ohioans to carry concealed handguns without any training in the use of handguns. (When someone wants to get a license to drive a car, he/she must prove that he/she can operate a vehicle safely. It would be ludicrous to give someone a driver's license after only watching an online video. A handgun carry permit should be no different but is there even a video to watch????)
- Permit Ohioans to carry concealed weapons without a background check, which would endanger other Ohioans. (Law enforcement officers agree and have testified against this bill.)

This Bill is hostile to police and would harm the public's safety, because

- It would dangerously eliminate the current responsibility of civilians carrying a concealed weapon to promptly notify police when stopped if they are carrying a concealed weapon.
- By eliminating any requirement for a concealed handgun license, this bill would make it impossible for police to determine if a person with a concealed gun was legally carrying it, and thus could result in police unknowingly letting people illegally carrying concealed guns continue to carry them.

SB215, is hostile to victims of gun violence, prosecutors and juries

- by giving a pretrial immunity hearing, and after the hearing giving immunity to shooters who were prosecuted but claimed self-defense, since the prosecution would often not be prepared to meet its burden that early in the case. (My fear is that someone would say, "That old woman threatened me" and would shoot me and I would not be around to refute that. Not impossible! That happened in Florida and could happen here thanks to the Stand Your Ground Law which our legislators blessed us with.)

88% of Americans think you should get a permit before carrying a concealed gun in public.

80% of gun owners, non-gun owners, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents agree that high safety standards are critical in issuing concealed carry permit. (Is this statistic correct for Republican legislators in Ohio or are they unduly influenced by the gun lobby?)

The faces of the Mothers of Murdered Columbus Children haunts me. How would you feel if your child was murdered?

SB will only make things worse by allowing more guns with little or no controls for those who don't know how to use a gun or shouldn't have it. Can you imagine someone shooting two children ages six and nine? It happened. How many more children in and outside of schools will fall into this abyss?