

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 215
Submitted by Stephanie Douglas

To the Chairman and the Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to present testimony on this bill.

My name is Stephanie Douglas and I am a public school teacher in Stark County. I am strongly and vehemently against SB 215 (Permitless Carry).

When SB 215 passed in the Senate, Sen. Seitz publicly thanked the NRA for convincing the committee that Ohio gun owners will still apply for voluntary Concealed Carry Permits, thanks to their need for “reciprocity” with other states which DO require permits. But the NRA is rapidly moving to pass Permitless Carry across the US. So how long will reciprocity be an incentive to get a permit? Not long, according to the same NRA!

Research from Boston University found that states that require permits and background checks have a 15% lower gun homicide rate than states that do not have these laws. If you do away with our permit/background check system, violent felons will be free to concealed carry guns with no legal consequence. Ohio already has a gun violence pandemic. About 1,500 Ohioans die from gun violence each year. We should be doing everything we can to strengthen our gun safety laws, not make our state “open season” on innocent people. The point is to keep guns out of the hands of “the bad guys”. A permit system that includes background checks helps do that.

I urge you to leave permits and background checks in place. Please vote NO on SB 215.

Thank you,
Stephanie Douglas