

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony SB 215
Submitted by Debbie Toder, MD

Chairman Wilkin and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 215.

I am a Pediatric Pulmonologist, member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an Ohio resident who always votes. I take care of children whose lives and those of their families have been forever destroyed by gun violence. The presence of a gun in the home or auto has been shown to endanger children. According to the Children's Defense Project, **“Gun violence was the leading cause of death for all children and teens ages 1-19 in 2018, surpassing motor vehicle accidents for the first time in history (1) and “has remained high ever since.”(2) “For every child or teen fatally shot, another 5 suffered non-fatal gunshot wounds”. (3)**

Allowing violent felons, domestic abusers, drug dealers and those with court adjudicated mental illness to carry guns where law enforcement and parents cannot see them is dangerous. Experience shows that it will not make families safer. We already have more guns than adult citizens in this country but our gun death rate keeps going up at an alarming pace.

More than 17, 000 American children are killed by guns each year. Many of these deaths are preventable, including more than 1,400 of Ohio's children. I call on you to reject SB 215.

Respectfully,
Debbie Toder, MD

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2020. “Causes of Injury-Related Death.” Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS).
2. CDC. 2020. “Underlying Cause of Death, 1999-2019,” Detailed Mortality Tables.

3. CDC. 2020. "Nonfatal Injury Reports 2000-2018." Accessed using WISQARS. <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.