

Ohio House Government Oversight Committee  
Opponent Testimony on SB 215  
Submitted by: Kate Dieble

Chairman Wilkin, Ranking Member Brown and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify.

I live in North Canton which is a small town in Stark County. I oppose SB 215. Once again, the Ohio Legislature is spending its time and my tax dollars trying to pass a gun bill that the vast majority of Ohio voters oppose. A Quinnipiac University poll released July 26, 2019 found that 90% of Ohio voters (including 87% of gun owners!) support background checks.

I especially object to the section of this bill that says people with a loaded gun in their car or on their person do not have to notify a police officer until the officer asks them. This puts our police in more danger than they are now!

If you eliminate Ohio's permit requirement, you eliminate the requirement for background checks and gun safety training. States that don't have permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate, according to a Boston University study. Every year, more than 1,400 Ohioans are killed with guns and thousands more are shot and injured. We need to do the things that make Ohio safer but this bill would just add to the tragedy of gun deaths.

The NRA claims that Ohioans will voluntarily continue to apply for permits so they can have reciprocity with other states. Yet the NRA is working furiously to pass permitless carry in many states around us. How can the NRA, on one hand, claim reciprocity as an excuse for Ohio to go permitless while, on the other hand, push for the end of permits in neighboring states? Good-bye to the need for reciprocity if the NRA has its way!

Our elected officials should be supporting our Police and ALL Ohioans. This bill would put Police at greater risk and allow criminals, drug dealers and domestic abusers to carry concealed guns. Don't endanger our police and our citizens further. Stop SB 215.

Respectfully,  
Kate Dieble