

Testimony in Opposition to SB215

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, and Ranking Member Brown.

I am an Ohio resident and registered voter. I am a retired Assistant Vice President of a bank. I am also a grandmother with two students in one of Ohio's public school systems.

This bill would endanger 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. It would permit Ohioans to carry concealed handguns without background checks, which would endanger other Ohioans. (Ohio law enforcement officers agree). This bill is hostile to police and would harm the public's safety as it would eliminate the current responsibility of civilians carrying a concealed weapon to promptly notify police when stopped if they are carrying a concealed weapon and make it impossible for police to determine if a person with a concealed gun was legally carrying it. It would also prohibit police in whether they should question or temporarily detain an individual and thereby keep the police from keeping Ohioans safe.

Live-fire training is critical to making sure that people who carry guns know how to load and fire that weapon properly and safely. When someone wants to get a license to drive a car, they have to prove they 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.

I strongly urge the committee to vote against Permitless Carry for the safety of all Ohioans young and old.

