

Dear Chair Wilkin and members of the Government Oversight Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Ireson and I am a pediatrician in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am writing to express my concerns about the dangers of SB215. As a pediatrician, I worry about the health and safety of children in my community. **SB215 represents a large step backwards in the firearm safety measures we need to keep Ohio's children, and all Ohioans, safe.**

SB215 would eliminate background checks and training requirements for concealed carry of firearms in Ohio. Every year, 1,700 illegal sales to convicted felons and 800 illegal sales to domestic abusers are blocked thanks to our background check system. We need to ensure that we are keeping guns out of the hands of individuals who have demonstrated acts of violence. This bill also puts our police at risk. Under SB215, individuals carrying a concealed handgun would no longer be required to promptly notify an officer that they have a weapon. This places our officers in dangerous situations. When our police are in danger, our community is in danger.

Further, I am deeply concerned by SB215's proposal to provide a pre-trial immunity hearing (as well as post-hearing immunity) to shooters who are prosecuted but claim self-defense. This is hostile towards gun violence victims who have done no harm. This allows shooters to make excuses for their own violence. I fear this law would contribute to the striking racial disparities we already see in Ohio and around the country.

The Ohio Supreme Court has held that **"there is no constitutional right to bear concealed weapons."** As a pediatrician I am proud to act on my responsibility to protect our children. In order to keep our children safe we need laws that focus on firearm safety – not putting guns into the wrong people's hands. I ask that you stop SB215 from going any further in the legislative process. Thank you for your time in hearing and reading testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Ireson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Ireson