

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 215-Permitless Carry
Submitted by Leslie Baird

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important public safety crises.

My name is Leslie Baird and I am a retired school professional and a resident of Stark County, OH. I oppose SB 215. Many “good” Ohioans, like me, do not carry guns. One of the things I do to protect myself is to move away from people who I can see **are** carrying a gun. How can I protect myself if I can’t see the guns around me? By making it easier for criminals to carry concealed guns around me, you are violating **my constitutional rights!**

Ever since the Newtown school shooting we have been hearing from the corrupt NRA that the “only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun”. But over the last five years we have seen that this is not true. America already has more guns than citizens yet our rate of gun deaths just keeps going up! About 45,000 Americans die from Gun violence every year and about 1,500 of them are Ohioans. (Gifford Law Center). Ohio Gun homicides increased **34%** from 2010 to 2019, compared to a **17%** increase nationwide. This represents an increase of **430** gun deaths over this period in Ohio. (CDC, Everytown).

This bill would eliminate permit requirements and background checks for concealed carry. A recent study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks had 15% higher homicide rates than states with such provisions.

This bill is anti-police. It would change the current “duty to notify” so that you don’t have to tell a police officer that you are carrying a concealed weapon unless the officer first asks you if you are carrying. This puts our hardworking law enforcement in more danger.

Finally, I can’t even imagine why you would want to allow people with absolutely **no** training to carry guns in our communities. Reject SB 215.

Respectfully,
Leslie Baird