

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 215-Permitless Carry
Submitted by Jennifer Botimer

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important issue.

My name is Jennifer Botimer and I am a preschool teacher and the mother of a young daughter. I live in Jackson Township which is a suburban and rural community near Canton. I strongly oppose SB 215 because it will endanger both Ohio citizens and Ohio Police.

I personally do not feel comfortable being around someone who is carrying a concealed gun, especially when I have no idea if they are even trained on how to use it. I usually would move away from that person if I can see the gun. That's one way I protect myself and my daughter. But I can't move away, if I cannot see the gun. That's why we need extra restrictions on concealed carry weapons like Permits, background checks and training. If you pass this bill, you are taking away my right to defend myself and my daughter. We have rights, too!

This bill would eliminate all requirements for permits, background checks, and any training for people to carry concealed guns in our communities. It would make it easier for convicted criminals, domestic abusers, drug dealers and those with a court adjudicated mental illness to carry concealed weapons.

It would also change current law so that if someone is stopped, they will not have to notify the Officer that they are carrying a concealed weapon unless the officer first asks them. So the burden will be on the officer. The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriffs Association and Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association have all testified against similar laws in the past. In fact, SB 215 would prevent police from even *asking* about suspicious looking guns

that are visible. The Police Patrolman's Association testified last year on a similar bill (SB 178) "...a person could have a car load of AK-47's and the officer would not be able to question them." Our legislature should be supporting our police, not making their job harder.

Approximately 1,500 Ohioans die from gun violence every year. A recent study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks had 15% higher gun homicide rates than states with such provisions. Reliable polling shows that 88% of Ohioans (including gun owners) want background checks and minimum training standards for those who carry concealed guns. Please STOP SB 215.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Botimer