

Ohio House Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony: SB 215  
Submitted by Matt Harmon

To the Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

I strongly oppose SB 215. My wife and I have worked hard to provide our 2 young children with a beautiful home in the conservative community of Jackson Township in Stark County. Eliminating permits would put more guns in our communities, in the hands of people with little to no training. I really don't want my family to be around someone who is carrying a gun who doesn't even know how to handle it safely or shoot accurately. The New York City Police Department reported that even their trained police officers find that their shooting accuracy decreases significantly in stressful shooting situations. Now just imagine the innocent bystanders who may be shot by untrained civilians.

When I see someone other than police carrying a gun, I take my family out of that situation and avoid engaging with that person. That is one way I protect my family. I cannot do that if I cannot see the gun. That is why the Ohio Supreme Court allowed special restrictions on concealed carry in Terry vs. Ohio over 50 years ago. If you pass SB 215, you will make it easier for convicted felons, drug dealers, domestic abusers and those with court adjudicated mental illness to conceal and carry a loaded weapon. As a result, you will take away my right to defend myself and my family.

This bill is also anti-police. It weakens a person's "Duty to Notify" Police, if stopped, that they have a concealed weapon on them. It puts the burden on the Police to ask about this weapon, even while they are trying to save lives. This will put our police at even greater risk than they are now! It also says that Police officers wouldn't even be able to ask about suspicious handguns/assault rifles that they might see on the victim or in their car! That's why the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association and the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association have all testified against changing the "Duty To Notify". I call on you to vote no on this terrible bill.

Thank you,  
Matt Harmon