

**Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 215
Submitted by Jennifer Madaffer**

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

I oppose SB 215. I am a resident of North Lawrence, a rural community in Stark County. I'm writing this testimony as a private, and very concerned, citizen.

To start with, I believe SB 215 is anti-police. It would change the current "duty to notify" so that people don't have to tell a police officer that they are carrying a concealed weapon unless the officer first asks them. This puts our law enforcement in more danger at traffic stops and in other situations. 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 changing the "duty to Notify". 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 "...a person could have a car load of AK-47's and the officer would not be able to question them." Our legislators should support our police.

SB 215 would make Ohioans *far* less safe. I cannot begin to understand why we would want to put guns in the hands of people with no firearm safety training. We aren't allowed to operate a car without training, why should we be allowed to carry guns without training?

The thought of previously convicted violent criminals or drug offenders carrying hidden, loaded handguns throughout our communities is chilling. Look at the recent protests that happened with some of them turning into riots. It would have been a *far* more dangerous and deadly

situation for our officers and citizens if SB 215 were the law of the land. According to a March 2016 survey, **90% of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public.** So who exactly does this bill serve? It is clear that it is designed to benefit the gun industry, not Ohio citizens. Please listen to the voice of the vast majority of your constituents and reject SB 215.

Thank you,
Jennifer Madaffer