

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

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

I am a resident of North Lawrence, a rural community in Stark County and I oppose HB 227. Research shows that states without permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate than states with permit/background checks (source: Boston University). Ohio's gun death rate grew by 34% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. We lose about 1,500 Ohioans every year to gun violence. It makes absolutely no sense to do away with permits, background checks and firearm safety training for concealed carry. Even Ohio gun owners agree with keeping these safeguards. According to a March 2016 survey, 90% of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public.

This bill is Anti-Police. It puts all the burden on Officers to find out if someone they stop is carrying a weapon. This makes their job harder and more stressful. We expect you to support our police! I urge you to reject SB 215.

SB 215 is also bad for business. Research by the Urban Institute, quoted in the Joint Congressional Report on the Economic Impact of Gun Violence found that neighborhoods with higher gun violence have fewer new businesses and fewer new jobs as well as lower home values.(1) Our Ohio should be supporting business, not creating roadblocks for business.

Vote NO on SB 215

Thank you,
David Madaffer

1. A Neighborhood-Level Analysis of the Economic Impact of Gun Violence. Urban Institute. *Yasemin Irvin-Erickson et al...* June 2, 2017

