

House Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony SB 215 (Permitless Carry for Concealed Weapons)
Submitted by Ashley Brechun

To Chairman Wilkin, Ranking Member Brown and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I strongly oppose SB 215 (Permitless Carry). I am currently a stay-at-home mom in Massillon, Ohio. Previously I was an accounting manager for a Fortune 500 company. I oppose this bill because my family and I have a right to feel safe from gun violence when out in public.

First of all, this bill is ANTI-POLICE. It changes the current "Duty to Notify" requirement so the onus is on the police officer to first ASK someone (during a traffic stop, for instance) if they are carrying a concealed weapon, before that person has to tell the officer they are armed. This endangers both police, drivers and bystanders. No wonder 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."

This law would eliminate the requirement for 8 hours of training to concealed carry a gun. It is common sense to require training before owning/using a deadly weapon. The amount of gun violence in the state of Ohio is appalling. We should be increasing education and training on safety for gun owners, not eliminating it altogether.

Also, Permitless Carry will result in easier access for criminals. Since 1998, Ohio Background Checks have stopped 81,000 gun sales to prohibited purchasers including more than 37,000 illegal sales to convicted felons, more than 16,000 illegal sales to domestic abusers and more than 8,000 illegal sales to drug users.(1) We need to strengthen the Ohio background check system, not abandon it!

I support law enforcement. I do not want to be in close proximity to people who are carrying hidden guns, especially if they do not have a permit, background check or even any training on how to handle their gun! My family has a right to life and safety without the constant threat of gun violence. Please protect MY family's rights!

Keep Ohio's gun permit system! Reject SB 215.

Respectfully,
Ashley Brechun,

1. State level NICS denial data obtained by Everytown via FOIA requests.