

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

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

I strongly oppose SB 215 (Permitless Carry). I live in Massillon, OH. I am a father and senior finance manager for a Fortune 500 company. I oppose this bill because my family deserves to feel safe from gun violence in our community.

You should listen to our law enforcement. 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. SB 215 changes the current "Duty to Notify" requirement. It puts the burden 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. SB 215 would even prevent police from *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." I don't understand why you are passing anti-police bills like this.

This law would also 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.

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 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 the right to be safe from gun violence.

Reject SB 215.

Respectfully,
George Lashway,

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