

Ohio House Government Oversight Committee  
Senate Bill 215 Opposition Testimony  
By Nancy Pierson

Chairman Wilkin, Ranking Member Brown and Committee Members,  
Thank you for this chance to testify on Senate Bill 215. I strongly  
oppose this bill.

I am a long time resident of Jackson Township in Stark County, Ohio, a  
suburban area that includes some farmland as well. I am the mother of  
a son who graduated from Jackson Local Schools, active in my church  
and proud grandmother of a child with special needs who lives in  
Columbus, OH. I am saddened by the continued rise in gun violence in  
our state.

This bill will would make it easier for convicted violent felons, domestic  
abusers, and dangerous drug dealers to carry hidden guns without a  
permit, background check or even any training. This will just increase  
the number of accidental shootings, escalations of arguments into  
“shoot-outs”, and gun crimes. It makes me more afraid for my family  
and community. I don’t understand why you would think this is a good  
idea!

Many states that have passed Permitless Carry have seen increased  
gun deaths. Alaska was the first state to pass Permitless Carry in 2003  
and they saw a 65% increase in aggravated assaults with a gun over the  
next 15 years. (1) This translated to an average of 465 more gun  
related assaults per year in 2017-2018 than in the years immediately  
preceding the enactment of Permitless Carry. So in a state with a  
reputation for having lots of gun owners who are presumably quite  
experienced at handling guns, Permitless Carry did nothing to keep  
them safer. Although the majority of states still require permits for  
concealed carry, it is true that the number of states passing Permitless  
Carry has grown to 20. Yet growing research has also shown that on  
average, the 10 states with the weakest gun laws have 3 X higher gun

death rates than the states with the strictest gun laws.(2) Ohio voters like me do not want to live with the constant threat of gun violence around us.

Keep Ohio's Permit System for Concealed Carry.

Respectfully,

Nancy Pierson

1. Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Alaska Dep't of Public Safety (Annual Reports)
2. Study by the American Center for Progress, as reported in Judiciary.senate.gov, *States With Weak Gun Laws Suffer From More Gun Violence*. Sept. 24, 2019