

Opposition Testimony SB215

Date: 2/27/2022

Name: Fatima Matar

Government Oversight Committee

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White and Ranking Member Brown: Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony today. My name is Fatima Matar and I'm writing as a concerned citizen in opposition to SB215

Having recently sought asylum in the United States with my now sixteen-year-old daughter, I wasn't aware just how much gun violence this country suffered from. But unfortunately I learned fast. The nightmares I got after the Michigan school shooting, all consisted of me running in smoke filled school corridors, searching for my daughter and screaming her name, waking up shaking, and gasping for breath. I texted her several times a day while she's in school in North Olmsted after her school received threats, asking her "are you okay?" and getting a panic attack if her response was delayed over five minutes. Every morning when I drove her to school and found intensified police presence, I thought, "It shouldn't be like this, schools should be a safe place for kids to learn."

It is not normal to fear for your child's life, or wonder whether you'll see them again after you have dropped them at school in the morning.

SB215 is a dangerous legislation that will put guns in the hands of mentally ill people, and criminals. I urge you to oppose this legislation that will threaten the safety of our children and our communities. I urge you to vote NO on SB215.