

House Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony SB 215  
Submitted by Pat Krummrich

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

My name is Pat Krummrich. I strongly oppose SB 215. I am a bereaved mother and a retired Speech Pathologist from Akron Children's Hospital where I cared for children who had been shot. I held my daughter's hand as she passed away at age 15. I will never stop fighting for the lives of Ohio's children and families because I understand the horror and pain a grieving parent endures.

I strongly oppose SB 215.

When the House Committee recommended their Permitless Carry bill to the Senate recently, Rep. Seitz publicly thanked the NRA and Buckeye Firearms for convincing the committee that if Permitless Carry passed, most Ohio gun owners would still voluntarily get a permit to concealed carry due to reciprocity with other states. Yet the gun lobby is working as fast as it can to eliminate permits in all of our neighboring states. So, if they succeed, which they proudly point out they are doing, how long will that incentive last? They say that requirements for permits unfairly penalize "law abiding" gun owners. Well, if most gun owners will still want to get a permit for apparently they don't feel unfairly treated! In fact a 2016 Survey USA poll showed that 87% of Ohioans, including gun owners, supported permits and background checks.

I believe this bill is Anti-Police. It would change current law so that if someone is stopped, they will not have to notify the Officer that they are carrying a concealed weapon unless the officer first asks them. I can't believe the GOP wants to endanger our Police. 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.”

When I am out in public, I am appropriately cautious, as all Americans have to be, about gun violence. One of the ways I protect myself is I stay alert to my surroundings. If I see someone carrying a gun, I leave the area and avoid interacting with that person. But how can I do that when I cannot see the gun? That is why the Ohio Supreme Court ruled, over 50 years ago, that common sense safeguards like permits, background checks and training are constitutional. If you pass this bill, you will make it easier for prohibited people to conceal and carry loaded guns in my community. Thus you would take away MY ability to protect myself, My right to life and safety. You would prioritize the rights of the gun owner over the right to life of my family. This is unfair and unconstitutional.

I believe you are miscalculating the public's reaction to this and other gun bills like Stand Your Ground. You may be appealing to a limited base and the gun lobby but a wide swath of Ohioans will show you how much they disapprove of bills like this, come election time.

I call on you to reject SB 215.

Thank you,

Pat Krummrich