

Opposition Testimony SB215
Submitted by Mimi Karon
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Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition to SB215. I am a private citizen and while I support the Second Amendment, carrying a concealed weapon is not protected in the United States Constitution nor the Ohio Constitution. Restrictions on carrying a firearm are as old as the Constitution. It is the job of lawmakers to put legislation in place that will help keep communities safe from gun violence. It is your job to listen to what the data says. And that data shows us that loose gun laws lead to greater gun violence and gun deaths. According to Everytown Research (2022) "In states where elected officials have taken action to pass gun safety laws, fewer people die by gun violence." Ohioans are seeing record levels of gun violence. It is beyond time for our elected officials to "do something." Please review this chart illustrating the importance of common sense gun laws and how they reduce gun violence.

https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/?source=etfo_hp_hero&refcode=etfo_hp_hero&utm_source=etfo_hp_hero&utm_medium=o&utm_campaign=hp_hero&_gl=1*10gu00v*_ga*MTc1MjM1MTcyMi4xNjM1OTc5OTIw*_ga_LT0FWV3EK3*MTY0NjAxOTc2OC4yMy4wLjE2NDYwMTk3NjguMA..

Widening the net of those who will be able to purchase and carry a concealed firearm to include perpetrators of certain crimes is irresponsible and will take Ohio in a more dangerous direction of increased gun violence. The office of the Attorney General reported in 2019 that sheriffs issued almost 133,000 concealed carry permits. Of these, 77,959 were renewals and 54,426 were new. Approximately 1,000 were suspended and 1,000 were revoked. The applications denied in 2019 represented the third highest in our permit program's history. ut this permit system if it is keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. It seems sensible to change the permit system if there were zero people denied, suspended or revoked but this is not close to our reality. 2,000 less guns in our communities is much more than zero!

The right to travel is so important to the creators of our government that it precedes the creation of the United States Constitution and appears in the Articles of Confederation (UIC John Marshall Journal of Information Technology and Privacy Law, The Right to Travel and Privacy: Intersecting Fundamental Freedoms, Richard Sobel 2014). But in order to travel, there are costs involved. One must purchase a ticket for public or private transportation. Or, to travel by car there are many costs involved. A car, gas, a driver's license. And the training required to receive that license: twenty four hours of classroom training, eight hours of training with an instructor, fifty hours of on the road practice over at least six months, and the cost of a learner's permit and then the fee for a license. One could argue that these costs and the time involved in obtain are an infringement of one's inalienable right to travel from and within states. But with freedom comes responsibility. Americans accept the immense time commitment and costs involved in

obtaining a driver's license because improper training is lethal. It should not be too much to expect of our lawmakers to expect the same of gun owners. Or at least eight hours. The sponsors of this bill should be ashamed of themselves.

Finally, it is horrible to have allowed SB215 to get this far in the legislative process when every law enforcement organization and individual officer that has testified opposed this bill. I hope that this committee will support our men and women in blue by not supporting SB215. Please do not make the job of law enforcement more dangerous to appease the interests of the gun lobby. It is past time to put the desires of the gun lobby, who benefit financially from loose gun laws when Ohioans lives are at stake. Thank you for allowing me to present this testimony to you today.