

Mike Halaiko, 285 West Columbus Street, Pickerington, Ohio 43147

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of The Government Oversight Committee:

My name is Mike Halaiko, and I am testifying again today as a concerned citizen in opposition to SB215. I am currently a resident of Pickerington, and I have lived and worked as an Educator in Ohio Schools my entire life.

This legislation would expand the ability to carry concealed handguns to certain people charged with crimes who cannot currently obtain such a license. We need laws that will encourage responsible gun ownership. Widening the net of who can carry concealed weapons, when gun violence is increasing in our state, is not a way to diminish gun violence and keep our communities safe.

Concealed carry requires a background check and training because it has the potential to be far more dangerous to the public. Concealed carry is given specific licensure in order to maintain a level of safety - in who can own a gun and how they are permitted to carry it. Both the Ohio Constitution and the United States Constitution do not guarantee this right. Gun rights activists need to stop manipulating the second amendment to further their "guns everywhere" agenda. But, more importantly lawmakers need to stop caving to them at the expense of the lives of Ohioans.

SB215 would permit Ohioans without any training in the use of guns to carry a concealed handgun. Handguns require more skill to use properly than a car and are at least as lethal. According to The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (June 3, 2020), there were 38,680 fatalities from car crashes. Roughly 35,000 people are killed by guns every year. Yet prior to obtaining a driver's license, Ohio law includes classroom time, on the road practice with an instructor, 50 hours of on the road experience with a licensed citizen as well as a written test and driving exam, over a minimum of six months' time. We would not even think of changing the requirement for obtaining a driver's license to zero hours and no exams. Legislation regarding concealed carry, should be about safety and not about rushing to put guns in the hands of more citizens, or how to proceed in getting a previous record expunged. In Ohio, we need laws that will keep people safe. With the numerous law enforcement agencies and the preponderance of research opposing this, why would you pass this bill? Changing the restrictions on who can obtain a CCW, and then allowing anyone to carry is not the way. I urge you to please oppose SB215.