

**Testimony of Susan Reis and Erinn Stark**  
**Co-State Policy Advocates of Ohio**  
**National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)**  
**Opposing SB 215**  
**Government Oversight Committee**  
**Monday, February 28, 2022**

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the Government Oversight Committee. We are Susan Reis and Erinn Stark, co-State Policy Advocates of Ohio for National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). NCJW is a 127-year-old organization that has 200,000 advocates across the country and over 2,000 members and supporters in Ohio. Our mission is dedicated to improving the quality of life for women, children, and families while safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. In its National Resolutions, NCJW resolves to work for the expansion and enforcement of laws, policies, and programs that prevent gun violence and promote gun safety. As such, we are submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 215, the Permitless Carry bill.

Permits ensure that certain core public safety standards are maintained, such as requiring that a person has passed a background check and **should** include completed firearm safety training before carrying a concealed gun in public. The experts in gun safety in our communities, and the ones who respond to gun violence, are our Police Chiefs and the FOP. They oppose this legislation, as do Mayors. Since this bill has no provision that people be trained in order to carry a concealed weapon, responsible gun owners also oppose this legislation: "The worst person that you can be around is a person who has a firearm and no training," said Jerel Crew, who runs a firearms safety, training, and gun club in Philadelphia called [That Gun Talk](#). According to EveryTown for Gun Safety, "Permitless carry laws lower the bar for who may carry hidden handguns in public and allow untrained and unvetted people to carry concealed guns in parks, shopping malls, crowded town centers, and other public places. Permitless carry legislation is part of the NRA's broader agenda to weaken and repeal important gun safety measures, allowing more guns in public and undermining public safety. Emerging data shows that states that have passed permitless carry are experiencing a substantial increase in gun violence." According to EveryTown, "In an average year, 1,529 people die and 3,552 are wounded by guns in Ohio. Ohio has the 20th-highest rate of gun violence in the US." Shouldn't you, our legislators, support legislation that research demonstrates promotes gun safety? Red Flag laws, background checks on private gun sales or "permit to purchase," waiting periods, and many more are all proven, through research, to lower gun violence. As a country with the highest rates of gun violence than any other in the developed world, the Ohio legislature should be working to pass these and other commonsense gun safety measures that will reduce violence and save lives. Research shows that a majority of Ohioans support them.

Thank you for reading this testimony and considering a "No" vote on this dangerous legislation.

**Commented [JR1]:** I don't think this quote speaks to permitless carry – it assumes that someone without a permit didn't get trained – and unless there's a correlation I would swap this for a quote or stat that speaks to the dangers of permitless carry.

**Commented [JR2]:** If you have any gun data re: Ohio I would also add that in.