

House Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony, SB 215
Ariel Miller

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the Committee,

This hearing is your chance to vote down and stop SB 215, which would undermine our already fragile public safety. I'm begging you, as an Ohio citizen, mother, and grandparent worried about rising gun violence in our state, to vote the bill down. It would increase the lethal dangers which already prevail in Ohio due to the proliferation of guns in the hands of untrained, angry, and impulsive people. In addition to the bill's dangerous provisions eliminating the need for a license or to disclose to police when stopped that one is carrying a concealed weapon. I'm equally concerned by the bill's provisions on pretrial immunity. This puts the burden of proof on victims in a civil case, and on the state in criminal cases, that the shooter did not shoot in self-defense. Please heed the letter you've received from the Ohio Judicial Conference on the dangers of this provision.

When I visited Senator Hoagland a couple of years ago, he told us that no one should handle a weapon without rigorous safety training. Please stand up for the preservation of current Ohio law requiring a conceal-carry license. My brother-in-law was a dedicated marksman and owner of at least 20 handguns and rifles. He proudly showed us his conceal-carry license.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* ran a series of articles late last year on the gun violence that is killing children in Cincinnati. A friend in the Cincinnati Rotary Club told me that six schoolmates of her son, who graduated from high school in Anderson Township in 2021, have committed suicide. Our country is in the midst of a rise of conviction that people need to become vigilantes, and be able to shoot anywhere with impunity. Removing the permit requirement for concealed weapons will add more violence to this volatile mix. I am sure police chiefs will be testifying against the bill's provision eliminating the gun owner's duty to inform the police that he has a concealed weapon. This law would make the job of police more perilous and terrifying.

I'm a very involved Christian, a lay leader in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio. Many Episcopal bishops are working to prevent gun violence. Barbers (who wield scissors and razors) need to be trained and licensed. Under Ohio law, drivers need to pass written tests and show that they have completed on-the-road training under the supervision of a licensed driver. Drivers need to buy insurance to protect others from injury or loss the driver could cause. Please apply the same concern for the safety of the public in your legislation on guns. Thank you for considering my testimony.

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