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March 1, 2022

RE: Ohio Senate Bill 215

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

For the record, my name is Todd Rathner and I represent the Firearms Policy Coalition, a national organization dedicated to the protection of the Second Amendment. We **STRONGLY** support SB215.

In the early days of this country, in some locations, carrying any type of concealed weapon was considered to be “ungentlemanly”, even crude. Today in many places this seems to be reversed with many complaining about “open carry” of firearms. The fact is the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, section 4 of the Ohio Constitution are silent on “open vs concealed” carry. Both methods of carry are clearly protected by law and tradition.

This brings us to Senate Bill 215. If a person can carry a firearm openly with no permission from the government, as is currently the case in Ohio, then why should they need permission to carry concealed? It’s illogical. In terms of some of the practical aspects of permitless carry, a person who is legally open carrying without a license could throw on a sweater and become a criminal instantly. This simply makes no sense.

Let’s be honest for a moment about who gets charged with these crimes, it is often people of color and the economically disadvantaged, they are much more likely to be charged with victimless crimes like carrying concealed without a license. The licensing scheme carries a significant cost to the applicant, a minimum of \$67 filing fee, training is generally another \$100, fingerprinting may also carry a fee. So we are talking about somewhere between \$150 and \$200 as a minimum cost to carry a firearm with a jacket on, or in a purse. It is simply wrong to levy a tax, fine, or undue fiscal burden on the constitutionally guaranteed right to self-defense.

When my home state of Arizona enacted permitless carry in 2010 there were predictions that crime would escalate and the proverbial blood would run in the streets. It never happened. There is no reason to believe that Ohio’s citizens, who already may openly carry without

government permission, are less responsible than those in the 21 other states that allow permitless carry of concealed firearms, including your neighbors in Kentucky and West Virginia.

I urge you to vote yes on SB215. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Rathner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Rathner

On Behalf Of The Firearms Policy Coalition