Testimony on Senate Bill 22185
Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Oct. 4, 2021

Submitted by: Joan Calem

Chair Hoagland and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 185.

My name is Joanie Calem and I am a resident of Franklin County. I am also extremely grateful that I had the good luck to be born in this country. I am appreciative of the American form of democracy that allows citizens to **safely and freely** express their views, whether they are views of agreement or views of dissent, on events in our country and/or government legislation, by rallying and protesting in public spaces, knowing that his is an American right as long as no other person is physically harmed in the process.

The bill that you are considering today seeks to change and substantially add to Section 3761.16 of the Ohio Revised Code. The general substance and intent of this legislation is to prohibit any governmental authority in Ohio from preventing the sale or confiscation of firearms, ammunition, or other deadly weapons under any lawful circumstances. Those prohibitions include any disaster, war, act of terrorism, civil disorder, public health crisis or any other kind of emergency. It also allows demonstrators to be cordoned off into a particular area.

Perhaps on the face of it this does not sound unreasonable, but in reality, we all know that when "liberal" leaning demonstrators come out to demonstrate, they are generally not carrying arms, while more "conservative" demonstrations are often examples of heavily armed participants. A cordoned off group of liberal demonstrators surrounded by heavily armed conservative demonstrators from who the police cannot legally remove weapons is a recipe for a bloodbath.

Please do not vote this bill into law. It is not going to keep Ohioans safer. Nor will it serve to bring greater justice or expand democracy in our state. The current law and its current wording is sufficient. Thank you for your time.

Joan Calem