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Before I begin, I would like to thank Chairman Wilkin and the rest of the honorable Representatives for taking the time to listen to my testimony. I also hope that you are staying safe and healthy during this pandemic.

As Spiderman's Uncle Ben once said, "With great power, comes great responsibility¹." This iconic mantra applies to not only people in power, but everyday Americans. Although the right to bear arms is guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution, it is a right that comes with great power and responsibility. Specifically, in the case of concealed carry, this means you have the power of both carrying and using a firearm that can cause harm to yourself and others. Simply put, with rights comes responsibility. In this case, responsibility means doing everything we can to make sure people who carry guns in public places go through the process to obtain permits.

Given the large amount of responsibility that having a concealed carry weapon has, I am **extremely** concerned about the prospect of people potentially not having to get a license to carry a concealed weapon. The whole point of having a concealed carry licensing program is to have a system to ensure that the people who have the right to concealed carry are responsible gun-owners. We already have licensing systems in place for doctors, lawyers, a multitude of other professions to ensure that they can provide the best services possible. We already have a licensing system in place to legally drive a car to ensure that a driver can safely and responsibly operate a vehicle. Why should carrying a loaded gun in public be different? It shouldn't be. I highly urge each and everyone of you to not support HB 227.

¹ <https://www.futurelab.net/blog/2014/07/great-power-comes-great-responsibility>