

## Testimony on Senate Bill 227

House Government Oversight Committee

June 17, 2021

Submitted by: Tony D'Ambrosio

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 227.

My name is Tony D'Ambrosio and I am a parent and resident of Hamilton County. My educational and professional background is in healthcare and public health. I have a great concern for the health, safety, security, and overall well-being of Ohio's citizens.

According to a March 2016 survey, 90 percent of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. Studies suggest that a very high percentage of Americans think a person should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public. Just as communities are made safer by drivers being required to pass tests before they can legally operate a car, it makes sense for people to learn how to use a lethal weapon. Requiring a permit to carry a deadly weapon is not too onerous a requirement given the potential repercussions.

Allowing people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit or safety training seems a measure that would increase the likelihood firearm related violence and decrease in the safety and security of Ohioans. Eliminating Ohio's concealed handgun license requirement would allow people with dangerous histories and those without any firearm safety training to carry loaded handguns in crowded town centers and in other public locations. Lawmakers should put the safety of their constituents first and reject this legislation. We require training, permits, licenses and oversight for many activities in the state. Something as potentially dangerous as carrying a concealed firearm should have to meet a similarly high standard of safety.

This bill will create more complications for law enforcement. It will cause police interactions with the public to be more dangerous because officers will not be able to readily discern if people are carrying firearms, and if those carrying firearms have gone through a process that demonstrates they are both safe and responsible with those firearms. Do we want to put these officers in further heightened hazardous situations?

Say it out loud. We as legislators believe allowing individuals to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit or safety training will make the state of Ohio a safer place for Ohio citizens: our children, our families, our friends, police officers and everyone else we care about. Do you believe it?

Please vote NO on Senate Bill 227.

Thank you for considering my testimony.