

Opposition Testimony on House Bill 227
Government Oversight Committee

Submitted by:
Mike Hubbard

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chairman White, Ranking Member Sweeney and committee members,

Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to House Bill 227. My name is Mike Hubbard. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio. My wife and I own our home in Clinton, Ohio, a small rural town outside of Canton. I have 3 grown daughters who all work in local schools in N.E. Ohio.

Ohio citizens have made it clear that they believe we should have permits and background checks in order to carry guns in public. It makes absolutely no sense to make it easier for felons, drug dealers and domestic abusers to buy a gun. A 2016 survey by USA Survey showed that almost 88% of Ohioans, including gun owners, favor gun permits and background checks.

Unfortunately, the NRA and local gun lobbies have an outsized influence in the politics of gun violence. This is not working for Ohio. We lose 1,400 Ohioans each year to gun violence of one form or another. According to CDC figures, Ohio's gun death rate rose by 34% between 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. We must change course!

This bill would also get rid of minimum training requirements for gun owners. A gun is a deadly weapon. I object to someone carrying a weapon around me or my family when they may not even know how to use it. The increased risk of accidental shootings and/or impulsive escalation of violence during arguments far outweighs any imagined benefit from this bill. Both the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Patrolman's Benevolent Assoc. of Ohio have testified against similar bills in the past. This bill only benefits the gun lobby. I believe we should listen to the opinions of Ohio citizens and the law enforcement experts who protect us. They know what they are talking about.

Respectfully,
Mike Hubbard
Clinton, OH

