

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227
Submitted by: Jennifer Bauchus

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and
Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony.

I am a small business owner, wife, mother and voter in Jackson Township, Stark
County, Ohio. I strongly oppose HB 227 (Permitless Carry) for several reasons.

First, as a business owner, I feel Permitless Carry would be bad for my small
business. It means I have to worry more about some person who is prohibited
from having a gun entering my business and endangering me and my customers. I
can't afford paid security for my sole proprietorship. States that don't have
permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate, according
to a Boston University study. If someone gets shot, or assets get damaged, in my
place of business, who will pay? Likely ME, in one way or another!

Second, a Quinnipiac University poll published in 2019 found that 90 percent of
Ohio voters (including 87 percent of gun owners!) support background checks.
Why are you listening to the gun lobby and ignoring the majority of Ohioans?

Third, a similar bill in the Ohio Senate also has a section that removes the
"Duty To Notify" law enforcement if you are concealed carrying a loaded gun or
have it in your car. I am concerned that this House committee will add that as a
last minute amendment to HB 227. Ohio law enforcement groups have testified
against removing "Duty To Notify" in the past. It is very dangerous to our police!

Every year, more than 1,400 Ohioans are killed with guns and about 4 times that
number are shot and injured. You need to do the things that make Ohioans safer
and *help* small business owners, not make it tougher for us! Stop HB 227.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Bachus

I strongly oppose HB 227. This bill would eliminate gun permits (which include background checks and training requirements) for concealed carry. Research shows that background checks are an effective way of stopping illegal gun sales. In Ohio, since 1998, more than 81,000 gun sales were denied to convicted felons, prohibited domestic abusers, and people prohibited due to unlawful drug use. Research at Boston University showed that states without permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate than states that do have such safeguards. We should be closing background checks loopholes, *not* getting rid of background checks! A poll by USA Survey in 2016 found that 88% of Ohioans want our state to require background checks and permits for concealed carry. You should listen to the voters!

People who concealed carry guns in our stores, parks, movie theaters, etc, definitely need at least some training with their weapon, the more the better. I cannot think of any good reason to pass permitless carry. I urge you to reject HB 227. This bill is dangerous to Ohioans.

Respectfully,