

**Government Oversight Committee  
Opposition Testimony on HB 227  
Sammie Dannug**

To Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important legislation. My name is Sammie Dannug and I am a teacher at Jackson Middle School in Massillon, Oh. I firmly oppose HB 227.

In 2018, I experienced an attempted school shooting that ended with the shooter taking his own life in the school bathroom. My classroom was just 2 doors down from that bathroom. I hid with my students in the classroom for 4 hours until the all clear. A worse tragedy was averted because another student saw the gun and ran to tell a teacher. This is a quiet suburban community, with excellent schools, surrounded by rural areas and I never expected that I would face gun violence at work or in my community.

For years, the NRA has been telling us that "the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." This is clearly not true. In 2018 the Small Arms Survey reported that Americans already owned 46% of the world's civilian owned guns and that number has undoubtedly risen over the past 2 years. Yet we have by far the highest gun death rate of any developed nation and our gun deaths just keep going up. In Ohio, our gun death rate increased 34% from 2010 to 2019 compared to a 17% increase nationwide. So more guns is not making us safer. However, I agree that we need to do more to keep guns out of the hands of "bad guys" (violent criminals, illegal drug users, those with court adjudicated mental illness or domestic abusers). Since background checks were introduced in the 1990's, they have prevented 3.5 million gun sales nationwide to prohibited purchasers. Ohio's background checks are not perfect...they would work better if they included the hundreds of thousands of online sales between strangers. But they are certainly better than no check at all! Please reject HB 227.

Sincerely,  
Sammie Dannug