

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony on HB 227
Submitted by Stephanie Douglas

To the Chairman and the Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to present testimony on this bill.

My name is Stephanie Douglas and I am a public school teacher in Stark County. I am strongly and vehemently against HB 227 (Permitless Carry). Thirty-one states and DC require permits and have may-issue or shall-issue permit laws. Research from Boston University found that states that require permits and background checks have a 15% lower gun homicide rate than states that do not have these laws. If you do away with our permit/background check system, violent felons will be free to concealed carry guns with no legal consequence. Ohio already has a gun violence pandemic. About 1,400 Ohioans die from gun violence each year. We should be doing everything we can to strengthen our gun safety laws, not make our state "open season" on innocent people. The point is to keep guns out of the hands of "the bad guys". A permit system that includes background checks helps do that. I urge you to leave permits and background checks in place. Please vote NO on HB 227.

My address is 1507 23rd St NW Canton Oh 45709 and my phone number is (330) 409-3926.

Thank you,
Stephanie Douglas