

Testimony on House Bill 227  
House Government Oversight Committee  
October 14, 2021

Submitted by:  
Ann Morahan

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Terry Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to House Bill 227.

My name is Ann Morahan. I am a proud Ohioan, having lived here for most of my 75 years. We have a state that is 34<sup>th</sup> largest by area and with a population of nearly 11.8 million, is the seventh-most populous. Ohio is the home of great presidents, astronauts, inventors, authors, scientists, and artists.

I have always been thankful to be from Ohio until I became aware of the bills our legislature is crafting. Unfortunately, Ohio's reputation is being tarnished by the numerous gun bills and suppressive bills that appear like a Whac-A-Mole arcade game.

Too many of our Republican legislators are being controlled by the NRA and their quest to push for initiatives at the state level. One of the five goals of the NRA, according to the book, The Second amendment and the fight for Guns, is on loosening concealed-carry laws. Instead of tightening gun laws, our legislators are going off the deep end to let any Tom, Dick and Mary get and use a gun without any training. (What would happen if we let people drive a car without any training or oversight? No permit or license? Scary!)

HB 227 would also restrict the ability of police to enforce the law regarding carrying concealed handguns, by limiting the questioning of such people by police. (Why would you tie the hands of police?) By eliminating any requirement for a concealed handgun license, this bill would make it impossible for police to determine if a person with a concealed gun was legally carrying it, and thus could result in police unknowingly letting people illegally carrying concealed guns to continue to carry them.

Wouldn't it be more prudent to support our law enforcement officers do their difficult job without adding more potential for gun violence? Why are you trying to put guns in the hands of people charged with crimes and criminals without a background check and training?????

Ohio's homicide rate increased by 43% from 2010 to 2019 compared to an average 26% for all other states. Poling shows that 88% of Ohioans want background checks and minimum training standards for those who carry concealed weapons. Gun owners are included in the 88% of those polled. Why are you ignoring us?

It would appear that our legislators, instead helping its populace with innumerable problems would rather give us more problems. More guns mean more violence. This is a fact of life. Aren't you reading the paper or listening to the news broadcasts? This bill would make the citizens and police in Ohio less safe. Is that what you want?

Why are you doing the bidding of the NRA instead of thinking for yourselves? Isn't that what we tell our children, think for yourself and don't be influenced by others? You have a responsibility to all Ohioans to make our lives safer but you are doing the opposite by voting for this bill.

**KILL THIS BILL!**