

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227

Submitted by: Michelle Lee Heym

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important issue.

My name is Michelle Heym, and I am an Ohio resident and voter, as well as a mother of 3 girls, Substitute Teacher, and a registered Republican. I vehemently oppose HB 227, the Ohio House Permitless Carry Bill. I don't have to tell you that this is a very, very dangerous bill for Ohioans. I oppose this bill because it will enable people to carry guns without training. I just do not understand why you would you do this? It's preposterous to allow people to carry a loaded, concealed weapon without training.

I oppose this bill as do police, who are required to have substantial hours of training and a permit to use a deadly weapon if necessary to protect themselves and those around them. There could be benefits for someone to carry a weapon, but only if they take the necessary steps to know how to use it. I'm afraid Permitless Carry will increase gun violence in Ohio.

Time and time again, I see our Republican state legislators passing reckless bills like this and endangering the lives of Ohioans. Why would you do this? The biggest problem that I have with permitless carry is that there is no trainer. So, someone that has never picked up a firearm, can go purchase one and begin to carry with absolutely no experience of safety or shooting that firearm. Come on guys, think about it. How is that safe? Please reconsider passing HB 227. Most states require 1. Criminal background check 2. Safety Training 3. Complete live fire training 4. Be a resident of that state.

This bill matters to me especially because I was living in Connecticut on December 14, 2012, when 28 children, teachers, and a mother at home were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. My kids were in lockdown at the time at a school an hour and a half away. They were 10, 8 and 5. It was terrifying. I also feared for my niece since she was in a school in Ridgefield,

Connecticut. This very personal and horrible experience has led me to provide testimony on HB 227. Please do not pass this dangerous bill in Ohio.

Sincerely, Michelle Lee Heym