

**Opposition Testimony on House Bill 227
Government Oversight Committee**

Submitted by:
Jessica Hubbard

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chairman White, Ranking Member Sweeney and committee members,

Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to House Bill 227. My name is Jessica Hubbard. I live in Fairview Park, OH., and I am a kindergarten teacher.

Since our state's background check system and firearm training requirements are part of our permitting process, this bill would have dangerous consequences for our citizens. A gun is a deadly weapon. I do not feel safe being around someone who is carrying a weapon, especially if they have had no training in how to handle it and how to shoot accurately. A review of the New York Police Dep't reported by the Rand Corp. found that highly trained officers experienced an 80% decrease in their accuracy in live shooting situations. Imagine how much worse it will be when those guns are in the hands of civilians with no training at all! It will increase tragic shootings of innocent bystanders and accidental shootings.

Our current background checks, while not perfect (especially since they don't apply to online gun sales) have prevented more than 81,000 sales to prohibited purchasers in Ohio since 1998. A study by Boston University's School of Public Health in 2017 found that states with more relaxed rules for carrying concealed firearms have a higher rate of gun deaths than states that have tougher regulations. Research, common sense and overwhelming public opinion all tell us clearly what we should do. Reject HB 227 and leave Ohio's permitting, background checks and firearm safety requirements in place. Or better yet, *strengthen* our gun safety laws!

Respectfully,
Jessica Hubbard
330-904-3083
4127 Wooster Rd., Fairview Park, OH 44126