

Opposition Testimony to HB227
Government Oversight Committee
Submitted by Mimi Karon
October 13, 2021

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White and Ranking Member Sweeney: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition of House Bill 227. My name is Mimi Karon and I am a very concerned citizen and mother and have lived in Ohio for 43 years. Background checks and red flag laws show that gun violence drops in all states that have implemented them. Yet we have had zero hearings on any either of these bills in our state legislature, even though they have bi-partisan support. Stand Your Ground laws show that gun violence not just dramatically increases in every state that has them, but the overall homicide rate increases as well. And this bill passed with ease in Ohio last year. We see increases in the level of violent gun crime and gun violence in Ohio. It is time for our elected officials to please pass or at the very least, maintain the very few bills regarding gun safety that we have in our state.

Neither the Ohio constitution nor the United States Constitution guarantees the right to carry a concealed weapon. Which is why, I am certain, we have safety standards in place if one wishes to carry a concealed handgun. With the loss of almost 40,000 per year to guns and numbers rising, now is totally not the time to loosen gun restrictions. It is not the time to expand the option of purchasing a gun and carrying it concealed, loaded in public for those who currently do not have that right.

HB227 is going to make the job of our law enforcement more dangerous. And they have provided testimony every time a bill gutting the training requirement to carry concealed weapons shows up in our legislature. I cannot for the life of me understand how our lawmakers, those who should be most committed to keeping Ohio safe, want to pass a bill that opposes law enforcement. That just makes no sense.

Finally, businesses will most certainly be impacted when patrons know that loaded, concealed handguns are being carried into their establishments by others. It certainly will affect my family and many others across our state that care about their loved ones. It will make us continue to give our business to Amazon and Doordash. At a time when so many business owners across our state have closed or must end the business day early due to lack of staff or the ability to pay staff more hours, I am appalled that this bill is having a hearing.

Please reject this bill for good. Ohioans are exhausted from dealing with gun violence and I ask you to please focus on legislation that is going to “do something” to diminish this problem. Background checks and red flags laws are the easy answer. Not permitless carry. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony with you today.