

Testimony on H.B. 227
House Government Oversight Committee
Chair Shane Wilkin
Vice Chair Andrea White

Submitted by Sieglinde Martin, October 12, 2021

Chair Shane Wilkin, Vice Chair Andrea White, Ranking Member Bride Rose Sweeney and members of the House Oversight Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony against H.B. 227.

My name is Sieglinde Martin. I am testifying as a constituent, a mother, a grandmother, a retired pediatric physical therapist and resident of central Ohio for over 50 years.

H.B. 227 will allows anyone over 21 years of age to carry a hidden loaded gun in public. No license, training, background check or oversight required. Does this make sense?

HB 227 would even allow persons to carry without a permit that **are charged with pending felonies and violence related crimes and persons convicted of some assaults, drug offences, resisting arrests and even a misdemeanor assault on a police officer.**

Does this make sense to you?

HB 227 will eliminate the requirement to notify the law enforcement officer when carrying a concealed weapon. (For instance during a traffic stop)

H.B. 227 will eliminate the present requirement of 8 hours of training to carry a concealed weapon. Isn't this reckless?

Valid research and common sense say that H.B. 227 will endanger Ohioans. The choice is: Safety for All or a gun in the pocket of anyone. To me, safety of our community is most important.

I am glad that H.B. 227 is being deliberated by this distinct Committee. After having read the biography of each of you, I am impressed by your civic mindedness, your community involvement, your education, your breath of interest, dedication to serve and simply good will to all.

You are diverse group. You are board members or chairs of hospitals, schools, and even the BalletMet. You are members and/or pastors of churches. For 39 years Rep Timothy Ginter has been an ordained minister. Chair Shane Wilkin is a board member of the Highland District Hospital Foundation.

You are concerned about public safety. Since 2008 Rep Phil Plummer has been the Montgomery County Sherriff.

Rep Don Jones has been a volunteer fireman and EMT for 27 years with the Deerville Community VFD and Emergency Squad.

Rep Andrea White has served as chair and board member for Kettering's Partners for Healthy Youth. And Rep Cindy Abrams sponsored the distracted driving bill.

H.B. Bill 227 is about public safety. It is not about civil rights or gun rights. Ohioans do already have the right to openly or concealed carry a gun. H.B. 227 diminishes the responsibility and safety that go along with this right. Isn't the proposed bill an attempted overreach by some gun lobbyists and their followers? Don't let them get away with it.

The issues of H.B. 227 is not about being Republican or Democrat, it is about Public Safety.

No member of this Committee is a sponsor of H. B. 227, even your two colleges, who are members of the NRA, do not support it!

Let H.B. 227 die in committee.

Thank you.

