

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227
Submitted by: Nancy Pierson

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

I am a long time resident of Jackson Township in Stark County, Ohio, a suburban area that includes some farmland as well. I am the mother of a son who graduated from Jackson Local Schools, active in my church and proud grandmother of a child with special needs who lives in Columbus, OH. I am saddened by the continued rise in gun violence in our state.

This bill will would make it easier for convicted violent felons, domestic abusers, and dangerous drug dealers to carry hidden guns without a permit, background check or even any training. This will just increase the number of accidental shootings, escalations of arguments into “shoot-outs”, and gun crimes. It makes me more afraid for my family and community. I don’t understand why you would think this is a good idea!

Many states that have passed Permitless Carry have seen increased gun deaths. Alaska was the first state to pass Permitless Carry in 2003 and they saw a 65% increase in aggravated assaults with a gun over the next 15 years. (1) This translated to an average of 465 more gun related assaults per year in 2017-2018 than in the years immediately preceding the enactment of Permitless Carry. So in a state with a reputation for having lots of gun owners who are presumably quite experienced at handling guns, Permitless Carry did nothing to keep them safer. Although the majority of states still require permits for concealed carry, it is true that the number of states passing Permitless Carry has grown. Yet growing research has also shown that on average, the 10 states with the weakest gun laws have 3 X higher gun death rates than the states with the strictest gun laws.(2) Ohio voters like me do not want to live with the constant threat of gun violence around us.

Keep Ohio’s Permit System for Concealed Carry.

Respectfully,

Nancy Pierson

1. Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Alaska Dep't of Public Safety (Annual Reports)
2. Study by the American Center for Progress, as reported in Judiciary.senate.gov, *States With Weak Gun Laws Suffer From More Gun Violence*. Sept. 24, 2019