

**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 227**  
**Ann Shroyer**  
**Government Oversight Committee**  
**October 13, 2021**

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Representative Sweeney, and Members of the Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Ann Shroyer. I am a resident of Westerville and I oppose HB 227.

I oppose the permitless carry of concealed firearms for the obvious reason of this is completely unsafe and a nonsense bill that has no place on this committee's schedule other than lobbyists with a lot of money in the pockets of some members of the Ohio house want this bill passed.

This bill serves no one other than the sale of more firearms – both legal and illegal - and those that profit from those sales.

Passage of permitless carry bills in other states have lead to incredible increases in violent crime. In a state that is above the national average in gun violence rates – we are 20<sup>th</sup> – and in a city that is on schedule to blow past last year's record setting homicide numbers – most of which are completed with a firearm – please explain why opening up access to concealed firearms to more people will help save lives and solve problems. Guns are the leading cause of death for children and teens in this state, and yet to address this issue, this bill would only dump more firearms into the public.

I have a family member who went through training for a Concealed Carry Permit. Even though this person had marksman training in the army, had shot firearms for over 5 decades, he still found value in the course and learned quite a bit – particularly about how it would be very difficult to ever get the drop on someone with a firearm intent on harming you. The training matters and should be required.

I first became involved in paying attention to such ridiculous bills as this when I lived in Pennsylvania 4 years ago, and an incident happened at my son's church

based preschool. In PA, the conceal carry law is different in Ohio, in that churches are considered private property and have to opt out of allowing concealed carry weapons with signage. One morning before preschool, as the children were playing in the gym with their parents, grandparents, and siblings around, a volunteer at the church bent down to pick something up and his loaded, concealed handgun and holster fell out of his pants and spun across the floor until it ended up aimed at one of my son's favorite classmates. Thankfully no one was hurt. If anything else had fallen out of his pants, it would have been on the news and he would have been arrested, but because it was a gun... This man did at least have a permit. The incident was terrifying, but I did at least know he'd gone through some sort of training. It is bad enough that I cannot get ice cream at Scoops in Wapakoneta without my son asking why a guy is walking by with a handgun strapped to his hip – because Wapakoneta has been such a hotbed of crime since I was a child – please read that as sarcasm. Allowing anyone to carry a concealed firearm with no training is just a shameful dereliction of duty on the part of the legislature. You will have blood on your hands if this bill is allowed out of committee and passed in the legislature. Please use your valuable taxpayer funded time to work on solutions to save lives of Ohioans and not escalate the gun violence epidemic fueled by unfettered access to too many guns.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Shroyer