

Opponent Testimony to HB227

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to House Bill 227.

My name is Chris Wolf, and I am a resident of the state of Ohio who is growing increasingly concerned about the impact of gun violence on our state and our country. Gun sales have been robust since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. Not surprisingly, the number of people killed or injured by guns has increased over that same period. These deaths and injuries arose because of suicide, accidents, and other violent acts involving guns. The data (and common-sense) show that more people carrying more guns in more places has a negative impact on our state and our society. In fact, many have characterized the current rate of gun injuries and deaths as an “epidemic”. I would agree with that characterization.

House Bill 227 would allow a licensee to carry concealed all deadly weapons that would otherwise be legal to possess, remove the requirement of a licensed gun owner to ‘promptly’ notify police of a gun in their car and allow anyone 21 and older to carry a concealed deadly weapon without a license. The result of HB 227 would be more Ohioans carrying more weapons more often. And, per HB 227, this would be done without any vetting of the person carrying the weapon and no training requirements.

A major argument those supportive of bills such as HB 227 voice is that the expansion of one’s ability to carry deadly weapons in Ohio will result in greater protection for those carrying the weapons and their families. In fact, the opposite is true. With no licensing requirement, no training requirement, and an overly broad definition of “qualified person”, the result of this Bill, were it to be made law, will be more people injured or killed by firearms.

I do not want to see more Ohioans affected by gun violence. Therefore, I oppose HB 227 which will result in more Ohioans being affected by gun violence. This includes, those serving in Law Enforcement, who would more often be put in dangerous situations when responding to otherwise “routine” situations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Wolf