

Government Oversight Committee

Opponent Testimony on HB 227

Submitted by: Kate Dieble

Chairman Wilkin and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify.

I live in North Canton which is a small town in Stark County. I oppose HB 227. Once again, the Ohio Legislature is spending its time and my tax dollars trying to pass a gun bill that the vast majority of Ohio voters oppose. A Quinnipiac University poll released July 26, 2019 found that 90 percent of Ohio voters (including 87 percent of gun owners!) support background checks.

I especially object to the section of this bill that says people with a loaded gun in their car or on their person do not have to notify a police officer of this if they are stopped by police. I don't believe you fixed this with sub bill HB 227 because the provision only applies to those with a concealed carry permit, which itself will no longer be required! HB 227 makes permits essentially voluntary! This puts our police in more danger than they are now!

If you eliminate the requirement for Ohio's permit system, you eliminate the requirement for background checks and gun safety training. States that don't have permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate, according to a Boston University study. Every year, more than 1,400 Ohioans are killed with guns and thousands more are shot and injured. We need to do the things that make Ohio safer but this bill would just add to the tragedy of gun deaths.

Our elected officials should be supporting our Police and ALL Ohioans. This bill would put Police at greater risk and allow criminals, drug dealers and domestic abusers to carry concealed guns. Don't endanger our police and our citizens further. Stop SB 215.

Respectfully,
Kate Dieble