

Government Oversight Committee  
Submitted by Dianne Frimel

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am writing as a concerned citizen in opposition to HB277 which would expand the ability to carry concealed handguns to certain criminals and people charged with crimes who cannot currently obtain such a license. Our laws should keep guns out of the hands of such people. There is no reason to change who may obtain a CCW license. Widening the net of who can carry concealed weapons, when gun violence is increasing in our state, is not a way to diminish gun violence and keep our communities safe. In addition to allowing certain people who now cannot obtain a concealed handgun license to carry one even if they were trained in the use of guns, HB277 would permit Ohioans without any training in the use of guns to carry a concealed handgun. Legislation regarding concealed carry and who may obtain a license should be about safety. Not about rushing to put guns in the hands of more citizens and criminals. HB227 would also restrict the ability of police to enforce the law regarding carrying concealed handguns, by limiting the questioning of such people by police. We need laws that will support and protect law enforcement so they can do their job without adding more potential for gun violence during routine traffic stops, etc. SB227 negatively impacts the safety of citizens and law enforcement because of politics. In Ohio, we need laws that will keep people safe. Changing the restrictions on who can obtain a CCW and then allowing anyone to carry is not the way. I ask you to reject HB227.

Respectfully,  
Dianne Frimel