

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227

Submitted by:
Abby Hersey

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and committee members:

I'm Abby Hersey, a lifelong Ohio resident, mother of 3 girls, grandmother of two, wife, and business owner. I urge you to reject HB227, as it would put Ohio children and families like mine at risk by allowing people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit or safety training. Eliminating Ohio's concealed handgun license requirement would allow people with dangerous histories and those without any firearm safety training to carry loaded handguns in crowded town centers and on city streets, and I ask you to put the safety and wishes of your constituents first and reject this bill. When I was teaching my girls to drive, they had to learn about how to handle the vehicle safely, obey traffic laws and the rules of the road, look out for pedestrians, and take their responsibility as a driver seriously. They had to meet driver's ed and practice time requirements before passing a licensing test. I would never have considered just handing them the keys to a car and turning them loose without any training or licensing, and the state certainly wouldn't have allowed that either. Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Ohio - more deadly than motor vehicles - and yet this bill aims to remove the safety training and licensing requirements to carry one. The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio opposes the bill as well. The union representatives said removing the requirement for licensed gun owners to "promptly" notify a police officer during a traffic stop that they have a weapon in the car makes an officer's job more dangerous. This law will make law enforcement's job more difficult and will make our communities less safe and I urge you to reject this bill. Thank you.