

Opposition Testimony to HB227 Government Oversight Committee

Submitted by Mimi Karon

October 28, 2021

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White and Ranking Member Sweeney: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition of House Bill 227. My name is Mimi Karon and I am a very concerned citizen and mother and have lived in Ohio for 43 years. Background checks and red flag laws are shown to be effective in reducing gun deaths. Yet we have had zero hearings on any either of these bills in our state legislature, even though they have had bi-partisan support in the past. . We've seen increases in the level of gun violence across Ohio. It is time for our elected officials to please pass or at the very least, maintain the very few bills regarding gun safety that we have in our state.

With the loss of almost 40,000 people per year to gun violence and an increase in gun deaths since 2020, now is absolutely not the time to loosen gun restrictions. It is not the time to expand the option of purchasing a gun and carrying it concealed, loaded in public for those who currently do not have that right.

HB227 is going to make the job of our law enforcement more dangerous. That alone should be enough for this committee to put a halt to this bill. I cannot possibly understand how our lawmakers, those who should be most committed to keeping Ohio safe, want to pass a bill that opposes law enforcement. By continuing to pass laws that our police oppose, that puts their lives at further risk, it sends a message that you do not care about their safety. They are parents, children, sisters and brothers sworn to protect your families yet you are telling them that their lives do not matter to you. I'd like to ask that you think through this more carefully than you have to date.

Please reject this bill for good. Ohioans are exhausted from dealing with gun violence and I ask you to please focus on legislation that is going to "do something" to diminish this problem. Background checks and red flags laws are an easy answer. Not permitless carry. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony with you today.