

Testimony on House Bill 227

House Government Oversight Committee

October 28, 2021

Submitted by:
Andrea Kovesdi

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to House Bill 227. My name is Andrea Kovesdi and I have lived in Ohio all of my 55 years. My husband and I are small business owners and have two adult children.

I must ask you what good would this bill's passing do for Ohioans? I see absolutely no benefit in not only passing this bill but drafting it. And, I'm not alone. 88% of Americans believe that permitless carry is a bad idea and states that have enacted permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence. And if 88% of Americans isn't enough for you, 90 percent of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. (USA Survey, March 2016)

This bill would allow people with no firearms safety training, violent criminals, and some drug offenders to carry concealed handguns in public. I have written several testimonies in opposition to gun bills over the last year. Why would a bill such as this even be considered? In addition, this bill has had several hearings while the bills that have been drafted for the purpose of REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE sit and collect dust receiving no attention from the majority party in this statehouse. When I watch the local news, it seems that every day they open with a story or two about a shooting. People are dying or being horribly injured on a near constant basis in our state and in our country. Putting more guns into the hands of those who would do harm to others is not the way to stop the gun violence epidemic that we are all living through. Your constituents and neighbors will not be benefited by a bill such as this one. I urge you to assess what the real problems are facing Ohioans and address them with thoughtful and impactful legislation.

