

Testimony on H.B. 227
House Government Oversight Committee
Chair Shane Wilkin
Vice Chair Andrea White

Submitted by Sieglinde Martin, October 28, 2021

Chair Shane Wilkin, Vice Chair Andrea White, Ranking Member Paula Hicks-Hudson and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony against H.B. 227.

My name is Sieglinde Martin. I am testifying as a constituent, a mother, a grandmother, a retired pediatric physical therapist and resident of central Ohio for over 50 years.

H.B. 227 will allow anyone over 21 years of age to carry a hidden loaded gun in public. No license, training, background check or oversight required. Does this law make sense to you?

H.B. 227 would even allow persons to carry without a permit that **are charged with pending felonies and violence related crimes and persons convicted of some assaults, drug offences, resisting arrests and even a misdemeanor assault on a police officer.**

Does this law make sense to you?

H.B. 227 will eliminate the requirement to notify the law enforcement officer when carrying a concealed weapon, for example during a traffic stop.
Does this law make sense to you?

H.B. 227 will eliminate the present requirement of eight hours of training to carry a concealed weapon.
Isn't this reckless?

Valid research and common sense state that H.B. 227 will endanger Ohioans. The choice is: Pro Gun for Some or Pro Safety for All.

I am glad that H.B. 227 is being deliberated by this distinguished Committee. After having read the biography of each of you, I am impressed by your civic mindedness, your community involvement, your education, your breadth of interest, dedication to serve and simply good will to all.

You are a diverse group. You are board members or chairs of hospitals, schools, and community organizations. You are members and/or pastors of churches. For 39 years Rep. Timothy Ginter has been an ordained minister. Chair Shane Wilkin is a board member of the Highland District Hospital Association. Paula Hicks-Hudson has been/is a board member of numerous community organizations, such as the YWCA, the Frederick Douglas Community Center and the Toledo Youth Hostel.

You are committed to public safety:
Since 2008 Rep. Phil Plummer has been the Montgomery County Sherriff.
Rep. Don Jones has been a volunteer fireman and EMT for 27 years with the Deerville Community VFD and Emergency Squad.
Rep. Andrea White has served as chair and board member for Kettering's Partners for Healthy Youth.
And Rep. Cindy Abrams sponsored the Distracted Driving Bill.

H.B. 227 is not about civil rights and gun rights. Ohioans already have the right to openly carry or concealed carry a gun. H.B. 227 diminishes the responsibility and safety that are essential to these rights. Who will benefit from the proposed Bill?

Isn't H.B. 227 an attempted overreach by some gun lobbyists and their followers?
Don't let them get away with it!

The issues of H.B. 227 is not about being Republican, Democrat or Independent. It is about Public Safety!

No member of this Committee is a sponsor of H. B. 227, even your two colleagues, who are members of the NRA, do not sponsor it!

Let H.B. 227 die in committee.

Thank you.

