

House Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227
Submitted by: Barbara McCarren

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important public safety matter.

I am a long-time resident of Stark County, OH, a former teacher, and mother of two young men. I am completely against HB 227. There is no need for this bill because gun owners' 2nd amendment rights are already well protected at Ohio state and federal levels. The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that permits and background checks do not violate the 2nd amendment. But gun owners do not have the right to endanger the rest of us in public places. States that do not have permits and background checks have 15% more gun deaths than states that have such laws. It's pretty clear which side of the ledger Ohio should be on. Instead of getting rid of our permits and background checks, we should expand them to include on-line sales.

The author of this bill says that permits put an unfair burden on gun owners. But there are more federally licensed gun shops in Ohio (that can do a background check in, typically, a few minutes) than there are McDonalds. The cost of a background check is minimal compared to the \$400 or \$500 cost of a gun. Is it too much to ask that gun owners complete 8 hours of training to concealed carry? Why in the world would you want to buy a gun and then NOT know how to use it? Repeated polls (Quinnipiac, Pew Research, Survey USA) have found that the overwhelming majority of law abiding gun owners AGREE that we should keep background checks in place. Compare the cost and time required to get a concealed carry permit to the incredible medical costs, pain and suffering of victims of gun violence!

HB 227 is UNFAIR to gun violence victims!

A concerned citizen,
Barbara McCarren