

Government Oversight Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 227
Submitted by Anne Snow

To Chairman Wilkins and Committee Members,

I live in Jackson Township, a conservative community, in Stark County. I oppose HB 227.

Being a teacher who has been through a shooting at my school and being the person that the shooter walked by, there is nothing that having a gun on my person would have changed. Similarly, allowing unrestricted concealed carry in Ohio will result in prohibited people carrying concealed guns, without permits, background checks or training requirements and will not make us safer. In fact, it will make our lives more dangerous. An FBI study of 160 active-shooting incidents from 2000 to 2013 found that only one was stopped by an individual with a valid firearms permit. In contrast, 21 incidents were stopped by unarmed citizens. Research by Boston University found that states that have more relaxed rules for carrying concealed firearms have higher rates of gun deaths than states that have stricter regulations.

Our state already has a growing gun violence problem. Ohio Gun homicides increased 34% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. This represents an increase of 430 gun deaths over this period in Ohio. (CDC, Everytown). We lose an average of 1,500 Ohioans to gun violence every year.

This bill would eliminate background checks that are currently a part of permitting. Yet research by the Rockefeller Government Institute in 2019 showed that states with laws requiring background checks are associated with a 10% lower homicide rate. Doing away with Federal background checks means that there will be nothing to prevent convicted felons, illegal drug users and domestic abusers from carrying guns among us. This is a very scary proposition.

Respectfully,

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References:

1. Matthew Miller, Deborah Azrael and David Hemenway, "Firearm availability and unintentional firearm deaths, suicide, and homicide among 5-14 year olds," *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 52 (2) (2002): 274–275, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11426678>. 
2. DJ Wiebe, "Homicide and suicide risks associated with firearms in the home: a national case-control study," *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 41 (6) (2003): 771–782, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12764330>;