

Opposition Testimony SB215
December 14, 2021
Ann Shroyer

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Thomas: Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Ann Shroyer and I am writing as a concerned citizen in opposition to SB215. This legislation would expand the ability to carry concealed handguns to certain criminals and people charged with crimes who cannot currently obtain such a license. Ohioans have heard legislators tell us time and again that gun laws only penalize law-abiding citizens. If this is the case then there is no reason to change who may obtain a CCW license. We need laws that will encourage responsible gun ownership. Widening the net of who can carry concealed weapons, when gun violence is increasing in our state, is not a way to diminish gun violence and keep our communities safe.

Concealed carry requires a background check and training because it has the potential to be far more dangerous to the public. Concealed carry is given specific licensure in order to maintain a level of safety - in who can own a gun and how they are permitted to carry it. Both the Ohio Constitution and the United States Constitution do not guarantee this right. I personally know a CCW holder who talked about the value of the course, especially in teaching about appropriate holsters - my friend knew exactly why the loaded concealed carry weapon fell out of a church volunteer's pants at my son's preschool, because they had learned about the liabilities of such a holster in their CCW training course. This CCW holder had 5 decades of firearms experience, including 3 years of being enlisted in the Army and the subsequent marksmanship training, being an excellent shot that I had seen, and STILL found the CCW training valuable.

SB215 would permit Ohioans without any training in the use of guns to carry a concealed handgun and sneak up on others. If a "guns everywhere" concept worked to deter gun violence, then we would not be in the midst of our second year of record setting homicides in Columbus and cities across the nation. Two children, 6 and 9 years old, were shot and killed last week in Canal Winchester. I would posit that unfettered access to guns and a lack of secure storage laws led to their murders. This bill will only lead to the murder of more children. Changing the restrictions on who can obtain a CCW and then allowing anyone to carry is not the way. I ask you to please oppose SB215. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.