

Dear Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the Committee,

As a mother and grandmother concerned for public safety in my city, Cincinnati and statewide, I am writing to beg you to stop SB 215, which would increase the lethal dangers which already prevail in Ohio due to the proliferation of guns in the hands of untrained, angry, and impulsive people. In addition to the bill's dangerous provisions eliminating the need for a license or to disclose to police when stopped that one is carrying a concealed weapon. I'm equally concerned by the bill's provisions on pretrial immunity. This puts the burden of proof on victims in a civil case, and on the state in criminal cases, that the shooter did not shoot in self-defense. Please heed the letter you've received from the Ohio Judicial Conference on the dangers of this provision.

Senator Hoagland, when I visited your office a couple of years ago you talked about the high priority you put, as a veteran, on gun safety training. You told us that no one should handle a weapon without rigorous safety training. Please stand up for the preservation of current Ohio law requiring a conceal-carry license. My brother-in-law was a dedicated marksman and owner of at least 20 handguns and long guns. He proudly showed us his conceal-carry license.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* is running a series of articles this week on the gun violence that is killing children in Cincinnati. A friend in the Cincinnati Rotary Club told me that six schoolmates of her son, who graduated from high school in Anderson Township this year, have committed suicide. The mental health crisis for Ohio's children and teenagers is extreme, as the *Columbus Dispatch* reported in recent days. Our country is in the midst of a rise of conviction that people need to become vigilantes, and be able to shoot anywhere with impunity. Removing the permit requirement for concealed weapons will add more violence to this volatile mix.

I am sure police chiefs will be testifying against the bill's provision eliminating the gun owner's duty to inform the police that he has a concealed weapon. Do you support the police? Do you want to make their jobs more perilous and terrifying? That's what this law will do.

I'm a very involved Christian, a lay leader in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio. Many Episcopal bishops are working to prevent gun violence. I'm going to repeat what lots of other Ohio citizens have been testifying in our plea for common-sense gun safety laws. Barbers (who wield scissors and razors) need to be trained and licensed. Drivers need to pass written tests and show that they have completed on-the-road training under the supervision of a licensed driver. Drivers need to buy insurance to protect others from injury or loss the driver could cause. Please apply the same concern for the safety of the public in your legislation on guns.

Sincerely,  
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