

## **Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee**

### **Opposition Testimony on SB 215**

**By Barb McCarren**

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

I am a long-time resident of Stark County, OH, a former teacher, and mother of two young men. I am completely against SB 215. There is no need for this bill because gun owners' 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights are already well protected at Ohio state and federal levels. The Supreme Court has ruled that permits and background checks do not violate the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

In addition, this bill is anti-police. It makes it harder for police to do their job. Under current law, citizen have a "duty to notify" police right away if they are stopped for a traffic violation and they are carrying a concealed. Under the proposed law, the officer will have to specifically ask them if they are carrying first. This puts the burden on Police. Also, Police can't even stop someone to investigate a suspicious looking weapon. Even if they see a truckload of AK-47, they can't investigate it unless the person breaks some other law. Multiple Police organizations have testified against removal of "duty to notify" many times.

Finally, As it is currently written, SB 215 would establish pre-trial immunity for any shooter claiming self defense, thus EXPANDING Ohio's Stand Your Ground law. I expect that you may remove this provision before you try to pass the bill, because it is so unpopular with most Ohioans. However, with or without this provision, SB 215 remains a very dangerous bill.

Please reject SB 215. Common sense says that Ohioans who want to carry a loaded gun where it cannot be seen should have a background check and at least *SOME* training.

A concerned citizen,  
Barbara McCarren