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Opposition Testimony SB215  
By Charles Spencer  
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Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Thomas: Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Charles Spencer. I am a concerned citizen in opposition to SB215, which would **expand the ability to carry concealed handguns to 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. Evidence does not support this claim. The increasing examples of gun violence demonstrated the lie here. If this claim were true, 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 a pathway to more and more damaging gun violence.

Both the Ohio Constitution and the United States Constitution do not guarantee a concealed carry right. Too many gun rights activists manipulate the second amendment to promote their "guns everywhere" agenda. **Lawmakers have been coddling extremist gun rights advocates at the expense of the lives of Ohioans. This behavior can only be seen as chasing votes at the cost of citizens' lives, instead of working hard for the common interests of their constituents. This is legislative cowardice. Such legislators need to gain some integrity and start fighting for the common good**

SB215 would permit Ohioans without any training in the use of guns to carry a concealed handgun that could too easily be part of a conflict with others, essentially **robbing other citizens of any chance at reasonable self-defense. A guaranteed road to arming all citizens, a road paved with tragedies across the state**

We need laws that will keep people safe. Please oppose SB215. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.