

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Opposition Testimony: SB 215

Submitted by David Madaffer

To the Chairman Hoagland and Committee Members:

I am an Ohio resident and voter. I object to SB 215.

This bill is ant-police. I especially object to the part of this bill that removes someone's duty to inform a police officer that they are carrying a gun if they are stopped. Even if you ammend this provision to say that the officer must first **ask** if the person is concealed carrying, this puts the burden on police and makes their job harder. That is why The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriffs Association and Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association have all testified against similar laws in the past. In fact, SB 215 would prevent police from even *asking* about suspicious looking guns that are visible. The Police Patrolman's Association testified last year on a similar bill (SB 178) "...a person could have a car load of AK-47's and the officer would not be able to question them." Our legislature should be supporting our police, not making their job harder.

I have heard rumors that you may take any discussion of "duty to notify" out of SB 215 altogether at the hearing on Dec. 14th, 2021. So I want to emphasize that even without changes to Ohio's current "duty to notify", SB215 is a dangerous bill.

Eliminating permits (including background checks and training requirements) for concealed carry in Ohio puts citizens in more danger as they go about their daily activities. In short, this bill would make it

even easier for convicted felons, drug abusers and domestic abusers to carry guns. I may not even know this person is armed until they whip out their gun and start shooting. They can accidentally discharge their gun or miss their intended target and hit me or my family. According to the New York Police Dep't., the shooting accuracy of their well-trained officers decreases dramatically in an active shooting situation. Imagine how inaccurate untrained people will be in "shootouts". Innocent Ohioans will die.

According to a 2019 Quinnipiac University poll, 90% of Ohio voters support background checks, including 87% of gun owners. And according to the Pew Research Center, 81% of Americans nationwide oppose Permitless Carry. You should listen to what Ohioans are trying to tell you, not the gun lobby. We do not want Permitless Carry in our state.

Respectfully,

David Madaffer