

Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 215

Submitted by: Erin Dickinson

Dear Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important issue.

I am the mother of 4 young boys and my husband and I live in Broadview Heights, OH. I strongly oppose SB 215. This bill would end Ohio's current requirements for permits, background checks and any training for Concealed Carry. Experience and research tell us that, while not perfect, background checks do help stop illegal gun sales. In Ohio, since 1998, more than 81,000 gun sales were denied to convicted felons, prohibited domestic abusers, and users of illegal drugs. A study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate than states that do have these laws. Background checks in Ohio could be much more effective if they applied to on-line sales as well. We should close background checks loopholes. We definitely should not eliminate background checks. A poll by USA Survey in 2016 found that 88% of Ohioans agree that our state should keep our background check system.

Furthermore, anyone who conceals and carries a loaded gun in our public spaces should be required to have *at least* the current 8 hours of firearm training. My family has the right to feel safe in our community.

This bill is also Anti-Police. It would change current law so that if someone is stopped, they will not have to notify the Officer that they are carrying a concealed weapon. Some versions of Permitless carry have made it so the gun owner only has to alert the Officer that they are carrying IF the officer asks them. Even if you amend SB215 to read this way, it still puts the burden will be

on the officer. 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. SB 215 would even 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 Senate should be supporting our police, not making their job harder.

Ohio's gun violence rate is growing at twice the national average. About 1,500 Ohioans die from gun violence each year. A USA survey in 2016 showed that 88% of Ohioans, including gun owners, approve of background checks and minimum training requirements for those who carry concealed guns.

Please listen to Ohio voters and Vote No on SB 215.

Thank you,

Erin Dickinson