

Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee

Opposition Testimony on Senate Bill 215

Submitted by: Jennifer Madaffer

I am a resident of North Lawrence, a rural community in Stark County. I am writing this testimony to oppose SB 215 as a private, and very concerned, citizen. This bill would put Ohio children, families, and communities at risk. There is no evidence that eliminating gun permits, along with their Background Checks and Training Requirements deters crime, so what is the point? Permitless Carry bills make it easier for criminals to carry guns. This endangers not only the average citizen but our police as well. You should be working with the Police, not against them.

The Ohio State Supreme Court has already ruled that gun safety regulations, such as permits and background checks are constitutional. The cost of a concealed carry license in Ohio is ~\$67 for a 5 year license, compared to ~\$150 over the same period for a car registration fee. This certainly seems fair given that gun violence costs the state of Ohio \$11 billion a year, \$486 million of which is paid by taxpayers. (1) Getting a background check can be done at any licensed gun dealer and 100% of Ohioans live within 10 miles of a gun dealer (Everytown analysis of ATF data 2018). There are nearly 4 times as many gun dealers in Ohio as McDonald's (Federal Firearm Listings, ATF). So for this small effort and cost, gun owners protect their constitutional right to own a gun and the rest of us get at least SOME protection of OUR OVER-RIDING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE.

Please put the safety of your constituents first and reject Senate Bill 215.

Thank you,

Jen Madaffer

1. T. Miller and Everytown.org. Methodology Notes: using Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation PIRE Model (Bruce Lawrence et al. "THE Consumer Product Safety Commission's Revised Injury Cost Model. Feb. 2018 <https://bit.ly/2S5pXPB>)

