

## Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

### Opposition Testimony on Senate Bill 215

Submitted by: Jessica Hubbard

Dear Senator Hoagland and Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 215. My name is Jessica Hubbard. I live in Fairview Park, OH. and I am a kindergarten teacher.

I oppose SB 215. I do not carry a gun. If I see someone other than a police officer carrying a gun, I move away from them or avoid interaction. But if I can't see the gun, I cannot protect myself by moving away. By passing SB 215, you will make it easier for convicted criminals, domestic abusers and drug dealers to concealed carry and you will take away my ability to protect myself. You will be violating MY constitutional right to life and safety.

I definitely do not feel safe being around someone with a gun if they have had *no* training in how to handle it and how to shoot accurately. A review of the New York Police Dep't reported by the Rand Corp. found that highly trained officers experienced an 80% decrease in their accuracy in live shooting situations. Imagine how much worse it will be when those guns are in the hands of civilians with no training at all! It will increase tragic shootings of innocent bystanders and accidental shootings.

Our current background checks, while not perfect (especially since they don't apply to online gun sales) have prevented more than 81,000 sales to prohibited purchasers in Ohio since 1998. A study by Boston University's School of Public Health in 2017 found that states with more relaxed rules for carrying concealed firearms have a higher rate of gun deaths than states that have tougher regulations. Research, common sense and overwhelming public opinion all tell us clearly what we should do. Reject Senate Bill 215 and leave Ohio's permitting, background checks and firearm safety requirements in place. Or better yet, *strengthen* our background checks!

Respectfully,

Jessica Hubbard