

**Veterans and Public Safety Committee**  
**Opposition Testimony on SB 215-Permitless Carry**

Submitted by: Joe Blubaugh

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.

My name is Joseph Blubaugh and I am a resident of North Canton, a nice quiet town in Stark County.

Please reject SB 215. This bill will make it easier for prohibited people to concealed carry a loaded deadly weapon and harder for law enforcement to protect themselves and us. I do not carry a gun. When I see someone carrying a gun, I immediately move away from them, and leave the area if I can, to protect myself. By prioritizing the rights of those who do carry, you are diminishing my right to protect myself. This is unfair!

Ohio has a gun violence epidemic. According to the Brookings Institute, there are 400 million guns in circulation in the US population of 330 million people. The mass shootings that we are seeing every week are constant proof that having more guns in our country is not making us safer! Yesterday it was Boulder and last week it was Atlanta! Putting more guns in our neighborhoods, especially in hands of people with no firearm training, will not make us safer.

SB 215, as written, would also change current law so that if someone is stopped, they will not have to notify the Officer that they are carrying a concealed weapon unless the officer first asks them. So the onus 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. 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.

Even if you tweak this bill with a few ammendments, it is just a bad bill for Ohio. Reliable polling shows that the vast majority of Ohioans want common sense gun laws. Guns in schools, carried by poorly trained civilians is hardly common sense. Please listen to your constituents. Vote NO on HB 99.

Respectfully  
Joseph Blubaugh