

Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony SB 215
Ken Krummrich

To Chairman Hoagland and Committee,

I am a lifelong Republican, father of 2, business executive (recently retired from Timken Corporation) and 23 year resident of Stark County, Ohio. I strongly oppose SB 215 because, not only is it dangerous to my family, it is bad for business. This bill will contribute to Ohio's ever growing gun violence and sow fear and distrust in our communities. If I had made decisions this bad when I was at Timken, I would not have had my job long, I can tell you that.

Due to the pandemic, we have lost thousands of small businesses in our state that may never come back. Even major stores like J.C. Penny have gone out of business and many corporations have laid off workers. Now we are in the process of rebuilding. But this is NOT the time to introduce more fear into our customers lives...the fear of being caught in a "shoot out" discourages customers from going shopping, eating out or going to entertainment venues.

This bill would make the permitting process essentially "voluntary". The bill describes it as applying only to authorized people, those who are not prohibited by federal or state law from carrying a gun. This is analogous to allowing doctors to decide if they want to get a license, as long as they have not previously been convicted of malpractice! The reason for permits and licenses is to set and enforce standards for public safety. Without standards and laws, criminals get a free pass to harm the rest of us. It is your duty to protect the citizens of Ohio by maintaining our permit system.

During my retirement, I have been mentoring small business owners and entrepreneurs through a national non-profit

organization. Banks consider businesses that are in high crime areas a bad risk and it is harder for those businesses to get loans. Ohio's gun violence rate increased 34% from 2010 to 2019 compared to the national average of 17%. Research by Boston University and the Rand Corp found that states that have looser gun laws have a 15% higher rate of gun deaths. To assist our small business owners, you should help our state enforce its common sense gun laws, like permits, background checks and firearm safety training, not turn our state into a lawless gun zone. Please spend your time and energies providing for the safety of Ohioans with well thought through gun safety legislation. Vote No on SB 215.

Very seriously and sincerely,

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