

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 215-Permitless Carry
Submitted by Leslie Baird

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

My name is Leslie Baird and I am a retired school professional and a resident of Stark County, OH. I oppose SB 215. Many “good” Ohioans, like me, do not carry guns. One of the things I do to protect myself is to move away from people who I can see **are** carrying a gun. How can I protect myself if I can’t see the guns around me? By making it easier for criminals to carry guns around me, you are violating **my constitutional rights!**

Ever since the Newtown school shooting we have been hearing from the corrupt NRA that the “only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun”. But over the last five years we have seen that this is not true. America already has more guns than citizens yet our rate of gun deaths just keeps going up! Almost 40, 000 Americans die from Gun violence every year and 1,455 of them are Ohioans. (Gifford Law Center). Ohio Gun homicides increased **34%** from 2010 to 2019, compared to a **17%** increase nationwide. This represents an increase of **430** gun deaths over this period in Ohio. (CDC, Everytown).

This bill would eliminate permit requirements and background checks to concealed carry. A recent study by Boston University found that states without permits and background checks had 15% higher homicide rates than states with such provisions.

This bill would also remove the duty to notify a police officer if you are carrying a loaded concealed gun if you are stopped. This puts our hardworking law enforcement in more danger.

SB 215 expands Stand Your Ground by granting shooters pre-trial immunity. The president of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association has stated that Stand Your Ground Laws “provide safe harbors for criminals and prevent prosecutors from bringing cases against those

who claim self-defense after unnecessarily killing or injuring others.” In Florida, about 3 out of every five people who claimed “Stand Your Ground”, had prior arrests, many for serious crimes like assault and robbery.

Finally, I can't even imagine why you would want to allow people with absolutely **no** training to carry guns in our communities. Reject SB 215.

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