

Testimony on Senate Bill 215

Submitted by:
Lyndsey Dudley
Worthington, Ohio

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony on Senate Bill 215. My name is Lyndsey Dudley, and I speak today as a mother and as a concerned citizen who worries my state is going in the wrong direction when it comes to firearm legislation.

I believe many provisions of SB 215 would put my family, my neighbors, and all of Ohio at a greater risk of gun violence. As a mother of a 10 year old son and an 8 year old daughter, I worry about gun violence every day. Every. Single. Day. When I drop my children off at Elementary School, I say a prayer for their safety. I look around the parking lot and make sure I don't see anyone suspicious. We do not need laws like SB 215 that would make carrying a concealed firearm easier, and make the need for training or a permit unnecessary.

There are many pieces of the bill that concern me:

1. States that have passed permitless carry legislation have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence.
 - a. In 2003, Alaska became the first state to enact permitless carry legislation. Aggravated assaults committed with a firearm have increased incrementally since the law went into effect. Since 2003, the rate of aggravated assaults committed with a firearm in the state increased by 82% by 2017. That increase represents 526 more gun-related aggravated assaults committed in 2017 than in 2003.
 - b. Since Arizona enacted permitless carry legislation in 2010, the rate of aggravated assaults committed with a firearm in the state increased by 39% by 2017. That increase represents 1,797 more gun related aggravated assaults committed in 2017 than in 2010.
2. The vast majority of states require that a person get a permit before carrying a concealed gun in public. Permitless carry legislation dismantles these state permitting systems.
 - a. In the vast majority of US states, a person must have a permit to carry a loaded, concealed handgun in public. These laws ensure that core public safety standards are preserved when people carry guns in public places.
 - b. Permitless carry bills would repeal these important public safety laws, allowing people to carry concealed guns in public without a permit or safety training.
 - c. **88 %** of Americans think you should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public. **88%!** That is a powerful number.

Finally, multiple law enforcement groups, such as the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Ohio Association of Police Chiefs, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, The Prosecuting Attorney's Association, Toledo Police Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, as well as many individuals including the Sheriff of Van Wert County, Chief of Orange Village, Hamilton County's Sheriff McGuffey and individual police - have spoken very clearly in opposition of permitless carry bills.

Seriously. How is this a good idea???? Shouldn't we be creating laws to curb gun violence? To make Ohioans safer? Nothing about this law makes me feel safer. Nothing in this law leads me to believe that gun violence and gun deaths will decrease across our state. Can we agree that this should be a goal of this governing body?

I expect our legislators to find solutions to the multiple forms of gun violence—from suicides to mass shootings, domestic abuse killings, and other forms of homicide—that are on the rise in Ohio, as elsewhere in the US. Gun violence is an epidemic in America. Passing laws that make guns easier to access and conceal, with no training or permitting does not make us safer.

Please show up for Ohioans and vote NO on SB215. Please show up for your constituents. Please show up so that generations to come don't have to live in a world where Active Shooter drills are normal. They are not. None of this is. Please oppose this law, for the safety of your constituents.

Respectfully,

Lyndsey Dudley
6980 Rieber Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085