

Opposition Testimony SB 215
Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Submitted by: Shannon Gallagher Columbus, OH
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Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Thomas, my name is Shannon Gallagher and I am a volunteer with the Ohio chapter of Moms Demand Action. We respect the 2nd amendment and support responsible gun ownership. We don't object to hunting, sport shooting, or guns in the home for protection, if they are properly stored. We support permitting systems that require gun safety training for people carrying loaded, concealed firearms in public places.

We oppose permitless carry because it takes away personal responsibility—

Law enforcement experts, gun instructors, and military personnel overwhelmingly agree that people who carry concealed weapons in public should take firearm training, including live-fire training. Permitless carry strips law enforcement of this authority, forcing them to allow people with violent criminal histories to carry concealed guns throughout the state

This bill goes against our values in Ohio, *disregarding the devastating consequences of gun violence to our communities, shown by Ohio's alarming rates of gun injury and death.*

We've endured a devastating year in our state with so much death and sadness. In this time of increased instability for Ohioans --the loss of jobs, housing and food insecurity-- why make it easier to carry a gun when tempers are flaring and fears are growing, increasing the risk of tragic outcomes? Sadly, we already know in Ohio that easier access to firearms makes suicide and spousal violence more fatal.

OH simply cannot afford this bill—not in the cost of gun violence to each of our communities, not in the financial cost to our state.

We talk a lot about individual responsibility in OH. So let's preserve a system that encourages that same culture of responsibility with firearms, a system that lets communities know that a person carrying a gun has some knowledge of the law, knows how to safely use that gun and is a law abiding citizen. A system that is proactive, not reactive as this bill would support--after illegal activity and tragedy strikes.

Ask yourself—because the vast majority of OH's are asking you--Is this bill really critical? Will this bill make OHs safer or more at risk? How does it improve the quality of life in our state? Will it make our state more solvent or more in the hole? These are the questions before you; please take extreme care as you answer them.

I urge you to raise the bar and be leaders for Ohio. Vote against SB 215.