

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 5/22/19
NAME: Laura Irvin
ORGANIZATION: Moms Demand Action
(IF APPLICABLE)
POSITION/TITLE: Co-lead Lorain County
ADDRESS: 221 ELM STREET
CITY: Oberlin STATE: OH ZIP: 44074
TELEPHONE: 214-415-4761
ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON _____

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 178
SPECIFIC ISSUE: PERMITLESS CARRY
SUBJECT MATTER: community safety

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

See
Attached

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES NO

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 5 minutes

May 22, 2019

Re: Opposition to HB 178, the "Permitless Carry" Bill

Dear Legislators,

My name is Laura Irvin and I live in Lorain County.

I am asking you to vote NO on HB 178. This bill will put Ohioans in danger by making it legal for a person with absolutely no gun safety training to carry a hidden, loaded handgun in public. Research shows that states that enact permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in the rate of aggravated assaults. Since Arizona enacted a permitless carry law in 2010, the rate of aggravated assaults committed with a firearm in the state increased by 39 percent by 2017.¹ That increase represents 1,797 more gun related aggravated assaults committed in 2017 than in 2010. Evidence shows that states like Missouri and Alaska have also seen substantial increase in firearm violence. This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

I am also concerned that this bill allows for certain criminals who have been convicted of violent misdemeanors to be allowed to carry hidden loaded handguns throughout Ohio. Under current law, concealed carry applicants who have been convicted of these crimes must be denied. Violent criminals being legally allowed to hide loaded guns and walk around our neighborhoods! This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

If this law is enacted, some offenders convicted of crimes that involved possession, use or sale of illegal drugs would be allowed to hide loaded guns on their person and stroll through our cities and towns. Do you really want these offenders carrying concealed guns in our communities? This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

I value our sheriffs and police, and I value their lives. HB 178 would put these officers in more dangerous situations, and that is unconscionable. This is not the Ohio that I want for my children, neighbors or for myself.

Again, I am asking Ohio legislators to vote No on HB 178. I hope that I can count on you to keep our communities safe, and keep Ohio the state that we want for our children and neighbors.

Laura Irvin

Oberlin, Ohio

¹ Crime in Arizona, 2010. Phoenix, Arizona: Arizona Department of Public Safety. <https://bit.ly/2Uffq3Q>. Rates were calculated using population data from the United States Census Bureau.; Crime in Arizona, 2017. Phoenix, Arizona: Arizona Department of Public Safety. <https://bit.ly/2Rds4hV>. Rates were calculated using population data from the United States Census Bureau.