

June 2, 2019

Re: Opposition to HB 178, the “Permitless Carry” Bill

Dear Legislators,

My name is Mary Anne Crampton. Thank you for inviting me to speak today on behalf of the Ohio Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. We are a grassroots movement of American mothers fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment while protecting us from gun violence.

I am here today to speak in opposition to HB 178, legislation that would loosen gun laws.

Under current Ohio law, carrying a concealed handgun in public without a permit is against the law. HB 178 would eliminate the concealed handgun license requirement, allowing people with dangerous histories to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public.

Under current Ohio law, applicants for concealed handgun licenses must complete a safety training course that includes live-fire training. But HB 178 would allow people who have never handled a gun before to carry hidden, loaded handguns on our streets. This dangerous legislation ignores the 88 percent of Americans who think a person should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public.

Under current Ohio law, applicants who have recently been convicted of certain violent misdemeanors will be denied a concealed handgun license. But HB 178 would allow these criminals to carry hidden, loaded handguns throughout the state.

Under current Ohio law, law enforcement authorities must deny concealed handgun licenses to applicants who have been convicted of crimes involving the possession, use, or sale of a drug of abuse. But HB 178 would allow some of these individuals to carry hidden, loaded handguns throughout Ohio communities.

In an average year, over 1,400 Ohioans are shot and killed with guns. This includes over 100 children and teens in Ohio who are shot and killed in an average year. The bottom line is that HB 178 would put even more Ohio children, families, and communities at risk by allowing people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit or safety training. States that have enacted permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence.

Lawmakers should put the safety of their constituents first and reject HB 178. Moms Demand Action will be persistent and unwavering in our efforts to protect the lives of all Ohioans by ensuring that laws that keep us all safe stay in place. Therefore, I urge you to reject HB178.