

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 227
House Government and Oversight Committee

Submitted by:
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Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony opposing HB227.

I am a mom of three young children. My suburban neighborhood endured a shooting in a neighbor's driveway while children were playing outside. The experience was eye opening to the dangers that lurk in every community and every neighborhood. We feel like we are living in the "Wild West" which is also the everyday reality for many inner-city neighborhoods.

Growing up several of my friends' families were hunters. Eating the venison was always the celebrated prize. I remember the gun safes and I remember those families talking about the training which they took to shoot both rifles and handguns. They never questioned that training and they seemed to appreciate the techniques they learned during the training including safe storage. In short, training was not a hassle. It was an appreciated education.

Last year at Costco, I was in line behind a former marine who owns a business that includes a shooting range, offers concealed carry classes and survival training courses. We had a lengthy discussion about firearm training. His experience is that the minimal training now mandated by law for concealed carry is completely *insufficient*. The hardest classes to teach are the new gun owners. One comment was, "I can't tell you how many times I have almost been shot." He very much advocated for additional firearm training for all gun owners and agreed with me that "permitless" carry is ridiculous.

This line of thinking is similar to a comment on a Buckeye Firearms Facebook post about "permitless carry."

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At one time I would have been in favor of constitutional carry. I simply feel it is a constitutional right that everyone if they are able should exercise. I thought all gun owners knew how to safely and properly operate their guns. I thought that because thats all I had ever seen.

Then I started teaching and realized how many people don't know how to safely handle a gun even those who have been shooting their whole lives and think they know and it changed my mind completely. The amount of people who won't even train to properly for self defense after their basic class scares me. There are so many who feel a DVD or Youtube is a teacher. Even worse these ones that think they are "training" in their backyard and they have never take a advanced class.

Yes it is a right, but its a right that people need to learn how to exercise safely and properly with proper education and training.

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When HB 227 was introduced my jaw dropped. I thought, "I am mandated by the state to take concussion training to coach my children's soccer but gun owners don't need to be trained on an object that kills. That is beyond nonsensical." I believe in the second amendment. I believe in the right for people to protect themselves and take part in hobbies. I also believe gun owners have an obligation to be educated and trained on a device that is meant to kill. In fact, 90% of Ohioans believe permits are necessary to carry a concealed firearm in public.¹

The only thing this law ensures is that more people will be lethal to both you and me. Please represent the 90% of Ohioans that believe in permits. They are who elected you. Please oppose HB 227.

Thank you.

¹ Survey USA Survey, March 2016.