

Mary Anne Crampton  
17895 Captain's Cove  
Lakewood, OH 44107

**TO: OHIO HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

June 16, 2021

**Re: Opposition to HB227, the "Permitless Carry" Bill**

Dear Chair Wilken, Vice Chair White and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee:

I writing today to speak in opposition to HB227, legislation that would loosen gun laws.

Under current Ohio law, carrying a concealed handgun in public without a permit is against the law. HB227 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 227 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 HB227 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 227 would allow some of these individuals to carry hidden, loaded handguns throughout Ohio communities.

States that have enacted permitless carry laws have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence. For example, since Arizona enacted permitless carry legislation in 2010, the

average rate of aggravated assaults with a gun in the state increased by 8 percent. This has resulted in an average of 921 more gun-related aggravated assaults per year in 2017-2018 compared to the years immediately prior to enactment.

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 HB227 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.

Your responsibilities as elected officials include an obligation to protect the lives of all Ohioans by ensuring that Ohio laws keep us safe. HB227 will only add to the long list of daily gun violence casualties. Please reject HB227.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Crampton