

Chairman Wilkin and Members of the Government Oversight Committee thank you for taking my testimony on HB 227.

I am a retired nurse practitioner and once an elderly gentleman came to our office with his pistol attached to his belt. You can't imagine how nervous that made the staff in the office. And that is an example of a situation where I'm sure he was licensed and very careful. But the staff reaction is emblematic to the public's feelings about guns. They do not like them nor do they feel safer knowing a person has a gun that they could see and imagine how much more uncomfortable they would feel if they felt anyone could carry a gun without a permit! We need to have a license to drive a car, another public safety situation, so why would we not require a person concealing a gun on their person be required to have a permit that requires them to have safety training!

And I feel HB 227 is certainly a threat to public safety, allowing a person with no safety training to carry a concealed and loaded weapon in any situation they find themselves, ie in malls, grocery stores, on highways where road rage occurs more than we like to admit. And if you remove the mandate to get the permit, imagine how many people who will purchase the gun and not feel they need the safety training.

We need **statistics** to back up our laws, not just other people's opinions nor to follow suit of our surrounding states. In Alaska, who was the first state to pass permitless carry, aggravated assaults increased by 65 % since the law enacted. This means 465 more gun related aggravated assaults per year in the sparsely populated state of Alaska.

Why are you even considering passing laws that make policing and public safety so much more difficult to maintain? Please make your constituents safety your primary concern and do not pass this Permitless Carry Bill!

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