

**Testimony Opposing HB227**  
**House Government and Oversight Committee**  
**Submitted by: Jennifer Weinbrecht**

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

As a lifelong Ohioan, with family roots going back generations, I take pride in our state as a leader in areas of industry and innovation.

I am opposed to HB227 because it would allow people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit or firearm safety training. The permit requirement ensures a basic safety standard. This would be removed if HB227 were passed.

Because the permit is required, the provision in current Ohio law that prevents a person who has recently been convicted of a violent crime would no longer be denied the ability to legally carry a hidden, loaded handgun throughout the state. This also applies to drug offenders.

The proposed legislation seems crafted intentionally to allow violent criminals to carry concealed, loaded firearms and prevent our law enforcement personnel from being able to do anything about it.

In states where permitless carry laws have been enacted, aggravated assaults with a gun have increased dramatically.

Over the years I have discussed gun safety with many friends and I am sure that my fellow Ohioans from various political positions, from various parts of the state, support the requirement for a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public.

Please focus on making Ohio more safe for the next generation of creative people, rather than focusing on legislation that will have the opposite effect and put more of our people at risk of harm or death by firearm.