

## **Opposition Testimony on House Bill 227**

### **Government Oversight Committee**

**Submitted by: Dave Groenke**

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chairman White, Ranking Member Sweeney and committee members, thank you for allowing me to testify. I am an Insurance Agent, father and voter in Stark County. I oppose HB 227.

This bill would encourage more guns, without permits, background checks or common-sense training provisions, in the hands of more people. It would allow easier access to guns for convicted felons, illegal drug users and domestic abusers.

The overwhelming majority (close to 90%) of Ohioans want to keep our current permitting system in place, including background checks and mandatory training for concealed carry. I do not want my family to be around someone who is carrying a hidden, loaded gun who can't even hit their target! At least if we can see the gun, we may have the opportunity to protect ourselves by leaving the area. We have rights too!

A 2017 study by Boston University found that states that have more relaxed rules for carrying concealed firearms have higher rates of gun deaths than states that have stricter regulations. This committee should follow the wishes of the majority of voters, not the gun lobby. I urge you to vote no on Permitless Carry.

Respectfully,  
Dave Groenke