

Testimony on House Bill 227

Government Oversight Committee

Submitted by:

Shannon Gallagher

Re: Opposition to HB 227

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Good morning, my name is Shannon Gallagher. I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a mother of four in Columbus, a former middle school teacher and gun owner. I became a passionate supporter of common sense gun reform following the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As a mom and an educator, I knew it was my responsibility to become proactive in promoting violence prevention programs in schools and communities as well as supporting legislation that addresses the growing concerns of violence in our communities.

What keeps me fighting in this movement every single day, is the everyday loss of life that kills more than 100 people a day, and the constant barrage of dangerous gun bills introduced in Ohio over the past 9 years.... gun bills that do nothing to help save lives in Ohio, but rather take Ohio in the wrong direction, year after year.

HB 227 will not make our families safer. Instead, it will gut the existing conceal carry law for handguns, by eliminating the required permits and safety training, and allow people with dangerous histories to carry hidden loaded guns in public, without a single hour of training. The majority of Ohioans support responsible gun ownership behavior, which includes firearm safety training - an important component of our permit system that this bill seeks to eliminate. Our lawmakers should ensure these core public safety standards for all Ohio communities. Some states, like Alaska and Arizona, which have passed permitless carry, have seen a substantial increase in firearm violence.

I am always at a complete loss when gun bills like HB 227, which take away safety standards, are continually introduced that would not only weaken Ohio's existing gun laws and endanger our citizens but ignore the will of people who support gun safety bills like background checks on all gun sales, which was introduced in the last session as a bipartisan effort, but was never advanced for a vote. Two years ago, after the Dayton mass shooting, we screamed at our leaders to "do something," do something to prevent

gun violence! We did not hear one single voice scream “weaken our gun laws!” We are still waiting for our leaders to “do something.”

It is time to bridge the gap of the will of the people to you, our lawmakers, and pass legislation that will decrease gun violence, which will keep guns out of the hands of people with dangerous histories, and out of the hands of untrained individuals. HB 227 will walk us backwards, by allowing people to carry hidden loaded guns in public without a permit or safety training.

We all want to create a safer world where we do not have to fear that a prohibited and untrained person who has access to guns.

I respectfully urge this Committee to vote NO on HB 227. I hope I can count on you to do that.

Thank you for giving me the time to hear my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Gallagher

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