

Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony on SB 215
Submitted by Jennifer Bachus

To Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony.

I am a small business owner, wife, mother and voter in Jackson Township, Stark County, Ohio. I strongly oppose SB 215 (Permitless Concealed Carry) for several reasons.

First, this bill is anti-police. It says that people with a loaded gun in their car or concealed on their person will no longer have to notify the officer of this if they are stopped by police unless the officer first asks them. When police are trying to save lives or stop a crime, the first words out of their mouths may not be “Are you carrying a gun?” It should be the responsibility of the armed person to alert the officer of that immediately, as current law says. This bill will endanger our police! That is why The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriffs Association and Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association have all testified against similar laws in the past. You should be supporting our Police and all Ohioans, not making their job harder.

Second, this bill would eliminate the permitting process for concealed carry, thereby eliminating background checks and gun safety training. So convicted criminals, domestic abusers, and illegal drug users could more easily carry guns in our communities. Why in the world would this make sense? States that don’t have permits and background checks have a 15% higher gun homicide rate, according to a Boston University study. That should be reason enough to reject SB 215.

Third, a Quinnipiac University poll published in 2019 found that 90 percent of Ohio voters (including 87 percent of gun owners!) support background checks.

Every year, more than 1,400 Ohioans are killed with guns and about 4 times that number are shot and injured. We need to do the things that make Ohio safer but

this bill would just add to the tragedy of gun deaths. Stop SB 215.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Bachus