



**Representative Terrence Upchurch
20th House District**

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee - thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 218. This bill would restore local authority to generally regulate firearm conduct.

Last year the governor signed SB 215 into law, which now allows Ohioans to carry a firearm without a concealed carry permit. With a permit, gun owners were required to do at least 8 hours of firearm training, that training is no longer required.

This is scary, especially in areas with a record number of firearm deaths, like my district in Cleveland. We are not attempting to strip citizens of their fundamental right to bear arms by any means, we are trying to protect our communities and lower the number of firearm deaths. Every District is affected by gun deaths differently, that's why a uniform gun law across the State is not conducive.

I could stand up here and give stories of people in Cleveland losing their lives to guns all day, whether it be due to domestic violence like Amanda Williams who just lost her life, mass shootings like the one that happened a couple months ago in my Warehouse District or just blatant gun negligence like the 7-year-old girl that was shot by her younger brother on the East side of Cleveland. I could go on for hours, if you want more stories just holler at me after committee.

All these horrific incidents I just spoke of were preventable, and it still is preventable. Restoring local authority to regulate firearm conduct would not only benefit our constituents, but also our police and children.

Committees:

Ranking: Economic & Workforce Development
Insurance
Health Provider Services
Ways and Means
Agriculture

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Thank you, members of the Government Oversight Committee, for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 218. I strongly urge your support.

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