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**Committees:**  
Primary & Secondary  
Education, Ranking  
Economic & Workforce  
Development  
Ways & Means

**Special Appointments:**  
Educators Standard Board

**Phillip M. Robinson Jr.**  
**State Representative**  
**Ohio House District 6**

March 7, 2022

Governor Mike DeWine  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

For the sake of all of Ohio, I urge you to use your executive powers to veto Substitute Senate Bill (SB) 215, a bill that undermines current public safety laws that require permits for people who carry hidden, loaded handguns in public. SB 215 would eliminate the requirement for concealed weapon permit and training, and reduce penalties if a gun owner fails to notify law enforcement they are carrying as well as requires the officer to now ask.

It was only a few years ago this was considered an extreme, fringe policy, and now it seems many of my Republican Statehouse colleagues live to serve the most extreme fringes of society. You need to be a responsible check on this since you represent the entire state.

Permitless carry will allow guns in the hands of people without proper training, increasing the risk of everyday conflicts escalating into a deadly altercation. The first part of the U.S. Constitution's 2nd Amendment says, "A well regulated militia," stating the necessity for armed citizens to have standards and training in firearms. The U.S. Supreme Court, including late conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, have held that there can be gun ownership restrictions and training requirements are constitutional.

Communities and our children will be less safe as this will increase the chances that dangerous weapons will be used by dangerous individuals. These short-sighted bills will make more profit for the weapons industry at the expense of our lives. States that have weakened their firearm permitting system have experienced a [13-15% increase in violent crime rates](#). I know you are already aware that Ohio has a gun violence problem we cannot afford to make worst.

Between 2011 to 2020, the rate of [gun deaths increased 44% in Ohio](#), compared to a 33% increase nationwide. Firearms are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Ohio. Black children and teens in Ohio are 5 times more likely than their white peers to die by guns. And don't assume this is all happening in our more urban areas. Looking at deaths from 2016 to

**6<sup>th</sup> House District:** Southeast Cuyahoga County

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2020, Pike County in Southern Ohio had the highest gun death rate in the state. Five of the top ten Ohio counties for gun death rates are rural with populations under 66,000 people.

In terms of dollars and cents, [gun violence costs Ohio \\$10.9 billion each year](#) in medical, policing, and legal costs, of which \$486.5 million is paid by Ohio taxpayers. These costs and deaths are reflective of decades of extreme laws weakening gun safety in our state.

Despite this, my colleagues in the majority are pressing forward to cater to dangerous nonsense by gun lobbyists, ignoring Ohio gun violence and that 90% of Ohioan's want more, not less gun safety reform.

I call upon you to renew your promise from the Dayton Mass Shooting to veto all gun bills until the legislature passes your STRONG Ohio Plan. This is the time to show strength to rise above the gun lobbyists, and keep Ohio families and communities safe and secure.

I urge you Gov. DeWine to veto this bill.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip M. Robinson Jr.".

State Representative, Ohio House District 6  
Ranking Member, House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

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