

I'd like to thank Senator Hoagland for the opportunity to discuss the Ohio School Marshal Program.

I've been involved in public safety practically my entire life. I started as a Volunteer firefighter/EMT in Tiltonsville; Jefferson County then progressed to Paramedic. I then entered law enforcement with the Tiltonsville Police Department. Today, I'm still a firefighter/paramedic in the area and am now with the Wells Township Police Department and also a Deputy/Medic with the Jefferson County Special Response Team as well as a dispatcher with Jefferson County 911.

Years ago we had atomic bomb drills. We conduct fire and tornado drills several times per year. When was the last time an atomic bomb fire or tornado that happened during school hours?

The major threat facing the staff and students today is an unbalanced person determined to harm them. This is why I support this bill.

This is something that has been needed for some time. In addition to my career in public safety I also spent 4 years sitting on the Buckeye Local School board in Jefferson County. While there, I got to see firsthand the struggles school districts have trying to manage day to day operations while maintaining a safe environments for staff and students.

With district budgets stretched thin as it is, it's often difficult to dedicate personnel to this specific but vitally important task. The Ohio School Marshal Program will take the burden of program development off the school districts' while giving them valuable assistance in implementation.

This is an important first step in making Ohio Schools some of the safest in the country.

In closing, I applaud the legislature for moving on this important issue.