

Testimony on HB 99
House Criminal Justice Committee
April 15, 2021

Submitted by:
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Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 99. I am an emeritus Professor of Medicine with many years of experience working in a trauma hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. I have seen too many victims of urban gun violence – the damage done by gun violence is horrible. Contrary to our emotional responses, the EVIDENCE clearly shows that more guns lead to more gun violence.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 99 that would allow poorly trained teachers and others to carry loaded guns in schools. This bill should NOT go forward. It is dangerous. Teachers oppose it, insurance companies oppose it (you realize, I am sure, that they are, above all, experts on risk assessment!). Federal law enforcement opposes it. And much more training is required to use a gun effectively and safely than that minimal level allowed by this bill (8 hours rather than the 728 hours for concealed carry training!!) We wouldn't let anyone teach or drive or be a nurse or doctor or EMT with so little training.

THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFER, such as Extreme Risk laws, secure gun storage laws, and evidence-based threat assessment programs (see <https://tinyurl.com/ETSchoolSafety>). We appreciate your desire to have safer schools – please use these more sensible and evidence-based approaches to guide your future efforts, and vote NO on HB 99.