

Criminal Justice Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 99
Submitted by Matt Harmon
4/11/2021

Dear Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, and Ranking Member Leland, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

I strongly oppose HB 99. I am a successful businessman and the father of 2 young children who attend Jackson Local Schools. I have worked hard to provide a wonderful home and education in this lovely suburban and rural area. I expect my children to be safe and well-cared for by thoroughly qualified teachers at school. I object most strongly to having them in a classroom all day near loaded weapons, especially when those weapons are handled by adults with only a few hours firearm training! I would not hire unqualified people to be my child's caregiver for a few hours at home. I certainly would not want them close to my child all day at school. If a school police officer IS in the schools, they need to be thoroughly trained in handling their gun, crises management and de-escalation techniques. A couple of hours on the firing range and 6 hours of online training is certainly not enough for this incredible responsibility.

There have already been 90+ publicly reported incidents in our nation's schools where a student got hold of a teacher's gun or policeman's gun and, in some cases, actually fired the gun. There have even been incidents where a teacher/staff member shot themselves by accident. This is NOT what I want to have to worry about when I put my child on the bus. There's no evidence that having more guns in schools, especially in the hands of untrained civilians, reduces school shootings. If a school police officer IS in the schools, they need to be

Please protect our children. Vote NO on HB 99.

Thank you,
Matt Harmon