

Opposition Testimony: HB 99-Arming Teachers

Criminal Justice Committee

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Submitted by Carol Kralik

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Dear chairman LaRe Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland,
and committee members,

I live in a rural community (Louisville, OH) and I oppose HB 99. HB 99 asks teachers to take on another (very dangerous) role during their school day. Combined with the pressures of preparing for and teaching classes as well as keeping students safe from COVID, you will be asking teachers to shoulder the responsibility of protecting the entire school population from a school shooter. And you will be allowing them to do this without proper training. Eight hours of training, with merely two hours of live firing, is NOT enough training for this life and death responsibility! A teacher who has to give their full attention to a class of students cannot possibly be fully vigilant in preventing gun violence and cannot possibly give their full attention to teaching. To not adequately train teachers will only open the door for more tragedy. Take a moment to imagine the scenario where a stressed, untrained teacher thinks there is an imminent threat and kills a student. Imagine the physical and psychological damage that will result.

You, as legislators, have the duty to make our schools safer, not more dangerous by passing a law that allows barely trained individuals to carry deadly weapons around our children.

Thank you,
Carol Kralik