

Testimony on House Bill 99
House Criminal Justice Committee
April 10, 2021

Submitted by:
Monica Harmon

Dear Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 99.

My name is Monica Harmon. I am an Ohio homeowner, mother of two young children and a pediatric Speech Language Pathologist, employed by Akron Children's. I live in Jackson Township, a conservative suburban neighborhood. I strongly oppose HB 99. I would be very disappointed in our state for allowing our educators or other school staff to wield weapons with minimal training, putting our young people at higher risk for accidents and the potential for weapons to end up in the hands of children.

I believe that most Ohio parents oppose this bill. I understand that when the same concept was presented as SB 317 last year, there were more than 250 opposition testimonies submitted! There were only 2 testimonies supporting that bill, both of which were from paid gun lobbyists. Parents know that having people with only 8 hours of gun safety training (most of it online!) around our children, all day, every school day, is a terrible idea!

People who work with children, like myself, have our hands full as it is, especially during this pandemic. We do our utmost to protect and educate your children. You should not expect us to double as armed police! That is not what we trained for. You must vote No on HB 99.

Thank you,

Monica Harmon