

House Criminal Justice Committee  
Opposition Testimony HB 99  
4/11/2021  
Joseph Blubaugh

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, and Ranking Member Leland, and Committee Members: Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

My name is Joseph Blubaugh and I am a resident of North Canton, a nice quiet town in Stark County.

Please reject HB 99. Ohio has a gun violence epidemic. On average, 113 children die from gun violence every year in Ohio. According to the Brookings Institute, there are 400 million guns in circulation in the US population of 330 million people. The mass shootings that we are seeing every week are constant proof that having more guns in our country is not making us safer! Yesterday it was Boulder and last week it was Atlanta! Putting more guns in schools, especially in hands of civilians with very little firearm training, will not make our children safer. If there are to be armed personnel in schools, they should have extensive firearm training, as current Ohio law requires

The Giffords Law Center has documented more than 90 publicly reported incidents where students have gotten hold of a teacher's or policeman's gun and, in some cases, actually fired the gun. Even highly trained police forces, like the New York City Police, report that officer's shooting accuracy decreases dramatically in active shooter situations. Can you imagine the deadly chaos if 10 or 12 teachers step into the hallway, loaded weapons pulled, ready to shoot an unruly student? There's no evidence that having more guns in schools, especially in the hands of untrained civilians, reduces school shootings.

Reliable polling shows that the vast majority of Ohioans want common sense gun laws. Guns in schools, carried by poorly trained civilians is hardly common sense. Please listen to your constituents. Vote NO on HB 99.

Joseph Blubaugh