

Testimony on House Bill 99
House Criminal Justice Committee
March 24, 2021

Submitted by:
Susan Frantz

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. My name is Susan M. Frantz, and I am a constituent who lives in Avon Lake, Ohio 44012. I am a teacher, tutor and volunteer who has served Ohio students well over 25 years, as well as a parent and grandparent who cares about children and their education.

I know first-hand the training, dedication and focus it takes to attend to and to teach children and youth in a classroom. A teacher must be ready to fine tune lessons in a snap to continue to effectively reach their students. Responsibility for guns during educational time is too much to ask of any teacher, even a willing teacher. Teaching is the goal of teachers. This is what they studied and trained to do. The expectations put upon them today continue to grow. Adding the responsibility of being armed, especially with limited training required as in HB 99, is way above the expectations held by many educators, parents and school insurance companies. Thus, I definitely cannot support HB 99.

Unlike myself, some think schools will be safer. Research shows that this is false thinking. HB 99 would allow teachers to carry loaded guns in Ohio schools with **only 8 hours** concealed carry training permit hours. Our current Ohio law requires that all school employees (teachers, security guards, special police) with concealed carry permits **complete either an approved 728-hour basic peace officer training course, or completed 20 years of active duty as a peace officer**. It's ridiculous to think that HB 99 would exempt teachers from this requirement, and would allow school districts to employ armed personnel in schools with as little as 8 hours of concealed carry training, of which 6 hours can be completed online. This is asking for trouble!

From my experience, research and observations, I conclude that there is no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools. Training teachers and educating our children requires full attention to just that, without adding few hours of the care and use of a gun. HB 99 would worsen an already-dangerous situation by gutting the training Ohio law currently requires, allowing teachers to carry guns in schools **without extensive safety training**. As for me, as much as I love teaching children and youth, passing HB 99 would be a job-breaker. I find this this purposed bill very alarming! Make no mistake, I would not want to be an educator in a school building with personnel caring guns without extensive training. Lawmakers are called to put the safety of their constituents first. Do the right thing! I beg you, please vote against HB 99.

Thank you for your service and for representing us and our concerns.
With warm regards and hope for a safer future,
Susan M. Frantz