

Testimony on House Bill 99

House Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Dianne Frimel

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.

I am a resident of Kettering, OH and a retired teacher with 30 years of experience in a public school. I am adamantly opposed to HB 99 a bill that would arm teachers with loaded guns after only 8 hours of training. A gun has only one purpose and that is to end a life. Having loaded firearms in a school puts the teachers, students and staff at a greater risk of a fatality or injury by gunshot.

Students are not safer when their teachers are permitted to carry loaded guns. Their school becomes more dangerous. In schools with armed staff we have seen an alarming number of incidents in which loaded guns were not secured and consequently left accessible to students as well as incidents in which firearms were unintentionally discharged. The following link enumerates 38 different incidents where guns carried by school staff were misplaced or stolen and ended up in the hands of students and 17 incidents where firearms were accidentally discharged with students present.

<https://giffords.org/blog/2020/03/every-incident-of-mishandled-guns-in-schools-blog/>

We have seen the dangers of arming teachers in our schools and now we're considering reducing their training? How can you justify requiring only 8 hours of training for teachers to carry a weapon when basic training for an Ohio peace officer requires 728 hours? There is no amount of training that would make it safe for a teacher to have a loaded gun in school. HB 99 would worsen an already dangerous situation by gutting the safety training that Ohio law currently requires. Please vote against HB 99.

Respectfully,

Dianne Frimel