

Testimony on House Bill 99
House Criminal Justice Committee
March 25, 2021

Submitted by:
Susan Padrino Iler

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 House Bill 99.

My name is Susan Padrino Iler and I am an Ohio resident and voter. I have three children in Ohio public schools and I say a prayer for their safety from gun violence each day I send them off to school. I shudder to imagine the risk of increasing the number of untrained individuals carrying firearms in my kids' schools. Their teachers are experts in education and I know they are dedicated to my children, but that doesn't mean they know how to use or secure a deadly weapon, especially since HB99 eliminates the requirement for essential training. Bringing guns to school, especially in the hands of untrained individuals, would only increase the risk of gun violence. I'm concerned about my young children having to deal with the fear of a weapon being taken from a teacher by an unstable student, or of an accidental discharge. If there is ever an active shooter situation in school, I want my children's teachers to be attending to their safety, not grabbing a gun and doing what, I don't even know. Without expert training and direct communication with local law enforcement, how can they be sure who they're even shooting at? Arming untrained teachers would not make my children safer in an active shooter situation. As a physician, I believe in looking at the data and it's clear that more guns and less training would make our schoolchildren LESS safe.

Please vote against HB99 to help protect my children and all our children.

Sincerely,
Susan Padrino Iler, MD