

Opposition Testimony on House Bill 99
House Criminal Justice Committee
April 13, 2021

Submitted by:
William Koltek

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 William Koltek and I live in the rural community of Louisville, Ohio. I oppose HB 99.

We demand a great deal of our public school teachers, administrators and staff. We ask them not only to serve as teachers and principals but also as de facto social workers, crises mediators and surrogate parents. Their job is demanding and difficult.

The coronavirus has placed additional stress on school staff, families and students. Keeping students safe at school is profoundly challenging in many ways.

To expect that educators double as armed security guards in our schools is unreasonable. The more guns we have on school property, the greater the likelihood of their use. The greater the likelihood of their use, the greater the potential for tragedy.

To expect educators to double as armed security guards without extensive training is not only unreasonable, it is insane. It is an open invitation to mayhem and disaster. There is no way such a scenario would allow for successful resolution of a crises situation.

It is long past time for our elected officials to consider the welfare of their constituents above the welfare of the firearm industry and the National Rifle Association, whose corruption has recently been the subject of much attention. HB 99 is a terrible idea that refuses to die. If it passes, however, we can expect that some of our fellow Ohioans, including some of our children, will.

Sincerely,
William Koltek