

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 99
Criminal Justice Committee
March 24/2021
Submitted by: Susan Korte

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 Korte. I am a resident of Ohio, a 63-year-old widow responsible for my full time job, a difficult -to-maintain old house, an elderly mother in declining health, and two adult children still trying to find their places in this world, and yet once again, I am asked to interrupt a rare moment of peace to present my testimony to you because once again, the Republican majority wants to pass an ill-conceived and dangerous bill that will literally threaten the lives of Ohio's schoolchildren.

Having more guns in our society has not made us safer! We already have more guns than we have citizens. Gun ownership has skyrocketed. Yet Ohio's gun death rate over the last five years has continued to rise alarmingly, faster than many other states! Having more guns in school will cause a similar rise in gun violence in schools.

Teachers are already overworked and threatened with a deadly virus and now you want to burden them with decisions about whether or not they should shoot their own students? Imagine the consequences of HB 99 in the real world. With only 8 hours of firearm training, as allowed in this bill, school staff or approved civilians will be in daily close contact with our precious children while carrying loaded guns. Or they will be storing them somewhere in the school and children will, sooner or later, get hold of them. The fact you see no problem with school districts adopting this dangerous scheme without parental consent or approval only deepens my outrage. And who's responsible for the schools' increased liability payments? And the inevitable court cases and lawsuits?

YOU are responsible for this nonsense. YOU need to end it. And WE will be here every step of the way until you do. Vote against HB 99.

Sincerely,

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