

Testimony on House Bill 99
House Criminal Justice Committee
April 15, 2021

Submitted by:
Andrea Kovesdi

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in opposition to House Bill 99. My name is Andrea Kovesdi and I am a proud lifelong Ohioan, wife and mother of two.

After the week we've had in this country, experiencing two deadly mass shootings within six days, I hope that we can all agree that a firearm is indeed a deadly weapon. Keeping this in mind, anyone who accepts the responsibility of carrying a firearm, especially in a place that children occupy, must also accept the responsibility of learning how and when to properly use it.

Mass shootings are not the primary type of gun violence that Americans experience on a daily basis. That said, House Bill 99 seeks to address a problem that we are all familiar with, a school shooter. If someone is determined to "shoot up" a school, recent history suggests that they will find a way into that school.

In my opinion, the most sensible issue for you, our leaders, to address is preventing the shooter from accessing the weapon(s) BEFORE he can harm himself or others. In 77% of school shootings at least one person, most often a peer, knew of the shooter's plan. It seems that your time could be better spent by implementing policies that would work to prevent these senseless tragedies from happening instead of accepting that school shootings are unavoidable. Extreme Risk laws can stop people who show warning signs of danger to themselves or others from accessing or buying guns.

My children are no longer "school-age" and I must admit, with some shame, that I feel lucky that neither of them ever confronted a shooter in their school-especially since my son was one month old when the Columbine massacre happened. Arming teachers and school staff is not the answer. A large majority of teachers and parents oppose proposals to arm school staff. More guns and less training will only cause more problems in our schools. For these reasons, I ask you to oppose House Bill 99.