

Testimony on House Bill 99

House Criminal Justice Committee

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Submitted by:

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Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the committee:

I am presenting this testimony in opposition to House Bill 99. I am a retired school psychologist having worked in urban school settings for more than three decades. Fortunately, during my tenure, the idea of teachers being armed within a school setting was unimaginable. Even being caught carrying a gun on school premises would result in severe penalties.

I recently participated in a discussion pertaining to arming school personnel. The group included a sheriff's deputy, school administrators, parents of school aged children, and school board members. Those who participated could not resolve issues such as liability, storage, insurance for armed personnel, and training requirements.

Given our current climate of gun violence in America, adding guns, presumably as a solution to gun violence, appears counterintuitive. Limiting the amount of training for those charged with policing our schools, either as a teacher or school resource officer, would not result in a good outcome. Other solutions should be explored. I know we have the talent within our education, public safety, and legislative communities to devise a better plan.