

Criminal Justice Committee

Opposition Testimony on HB 99

April 13, 2021

Submitted by: Jennifer Madaffer

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 Jennifer Madaffer. I am writing this testimony as a private, and very concerned, citizen. The proposed HB 99 bill (Arming Teachers or Civilians in Schools) would put Ohio children, teachers and parents at risk. There is no evidence that arming minimally trained teachers reduces school shootings. Even thoroughly trained police often make poor decisions or shoot inaccurately in stressful situations. We cannot expect teachers or civilians with little training to make life and death decisions. We cannot expect them to take the life of a student or accurately shoot into a crowd of children. Their focus has to be on teaching and controlling the classroom. We cannot assume that they will always safely store their weapon where a child cannot get hold of it. Many innocent lives will be lost due to this bill. The emotional trauma for students, staff and the community in these instances will be enormous. Vote NO on HB 99.

Thank you,

Jennifer Madaffer