

House Criminal Justice Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 99
3/23/2021
By Ryan Miller

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, and Ranking Member Leland, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

I strongly oppose HB 99. We ask so much of our teachers already! We expect them to excel at teaching, double as counselors and now to keep themselves and their students protected from COVID. It is totally unsafe to allow or expect teachers to serve as armed security guards in schools as well. Yet this bill would dramatically decrease the amount of training required for teachers to carry loaded weapons in schools to just 8 hours of firearm training (only 2 of which are actually at a shooting range). If a school police officer IS in the schools, they need to be thoroughly trained in handling their gun, crises management and de-escalation techniques, as provided for by current Ohio law.

The Giffords Law Center (at giffords.org/lawcenter) has documented more than 90 publicly reported incidents where students have gotten hold of a teacher's or policeman's gun and, in some cases, actually fired the gun. Even highly trained police forces, like the New York City Police, report that officer's shooting accuracy decreases dramatically in active shooter situations. Can you imagine the deadly chaos if 10 or 12 teachers step into the hallway, loaded weapons pulled, ready to shoot an unruly student? There's no evidence that having more guns in schools, especially in the hands of untrained civilians, reduces school shootings.

Please listen to your constituents. Vote NO on HB 99.

Ryan Miller