

## Testimony on House Bill 99

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

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Submitted by:

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Chair LaRue, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 99. My name is Ann Morahan and I am a retired educator of 37 year in both private and public K-12 schools. I am a grandmother of a two-year old girl and two teen boys ages 15 and 17.

When I first started teaching high school students in a Catholic high school in Columbus, a student stole my grade book. That was a rude awakening as this was before everything was on computer. (Needless to say that I was a wreck until I got it back.) High school teaching was new for me and I was unprepared. If teachers are to carry a gun in class, how prepared should they be? Where could they keep a gun so that no student has access to it? Children young and old are quite capable of outsmarting adults. That was proven when a child got access to a bus driver's gun in southern Ohio a year or so ago.

The gun lobby (whose umbilical cord seems to be attached to legislators) is pushing dangerous legislation in Ohio that would drastically reduce safety training requirements for teachers who carry loaded handguns inside elementary, middle and high schools.

Do teachers want this dangerous bill? I have never spoken to a teacher, presently teaching or retired, who thinks that teachers should carry a gun. Have you? How many teachers cram your cell or office phone with demands that they carry a gun in school? Who wants this???? Please explain who wants this bill and why?

Teachers that I know love their children but also know how curious they are. A child would grab a gun at the drop of a hat. According to the Washington Post at least 26,000 children and teens younger than 18 were killed by gunfire in the United States between 1999 and 2016. What is the number now? Would this bill add to the number?

The Federation of Teachers and National Education Association oppose allowing guns in schools. Introducing more guns in schools increases the risk of gun violence. How easy it would be for a child to get a gun from an unprepared teacher, or even from one prepared.

The bottom line is that IT IS A BAD IDEA TO ALLOW TEACHERS TO CARRY A GUN, AND A WORSE IDEA TO SEND THEM INTO A CLASSROOM WITH LITTLE GUN TRAINING.

Would insurance companies insure this dangerous practice? The insurance representative that I spoke with said probably NOT. He stated, "The risk exposure is too high."

House Bill 99 would drastically reduce safety training requirements for teachers and school staff who carry loaded guns in schools from 728 to only 8 hours of concealed carry training. Is 8 hours enough to learn to be a policeman or policewoman? The teachers I know say that they did NOT go to college for police training and have too many other responsibilities.

**Please ditch this bill!!!**