

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 99

Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by: Wendy Oldaker

April 13, 2021

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.

I am a resident, homeowner and voter in Stark County, Ohio. No one has more concern for the safety of Ohio's students than Ohio's parents and teachers themselves. But the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association both oppose arming teachers in schools. (2) The US government's chief legal, educational and law enforcement agencies all find that arming civilians in schools is "not a safe security practice". (3) Putting those guns in the hands of civilians with just a few hours of gun training, as HB 99 would do, only increases the risk of shooting deaths and injuries in our schools.

The idea that more "Good Guys" with guns will stop shootings by "Bad Guys" has been resoundingly debunked by research. We have 400 million guns in this country but we lead the world in gun deaths! Our gun deaths continue to climb at alarming rates *especially here in Ohio*.

If some schools DO decide to have armed officers in schools, they should have extensive training similar to the Peace Officer training required by current Ohio law. Reducing this training to just 2 hours of active shooting range time and 6 hours online is ridiculous. According to the New York City Police Department, their officer's ability to shoot accurately decreases significantly when engaged in gunfights with perpetrators. (9) There is no way teachers can be expected to shoot accurately into a crowd of students with just a few hours training. You will just cause more children and staff to die.

I urge you to reject HB 99.

Thank you,

Wendy Oldaker

References

1 See ORC Ann. 109.78(D).

2

"AFT, NEA: Arming Teachers Won't Keep Schools Safe, Dec. 20, 2012, available at: <http://www.nea.org/home/53943.htm>

.

3

U.S. Department of Education, et.al, "Guide for Developing High Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, 2012, available at: http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_S_k_12_Guide_508.pdf

4

Seltzer A, Winston H, Hitchcock O. Breaking: Man arrested in 2013 murder of Dreyfoos school janitors. The Palm Beach Post. May 25, 2017. <https://pbpo.st/2RE4R8V>. Schrott M. Officer accidentally discharges weapon at George Washington Middle School. Alexandria Times. March 13, 2018. <https://bit.ly/2BnC8zT>. See also: Everytown for Gun Safety. Gunfire on School Grounds. <https://bit.ly/2ZMXpjy>

5

Harten D. Police: Jacksonville High student steals gun from teacher. Arkansas Democrat Gazette. January 17, 2012 <https://bit.ly/2V3psWX>; Madden R. Police find teacher's stolen gun with student. Fox 2 Now St. Louis. October 25, 2018. <https://bit.ly/2S9hqy7>.

8

Reaves BA. State and local law enforcement training academies, 2013. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. July 2016. <https://bit.ly/2pg0whl>.

9

Rostker BD, Hanser LM, Hix WM, et al. Evaluation of the New York City Police Department firearm training and firearm discharge review process. Rand Corporation. <https://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG717.html>. Published 2008