

HB 99 Opponent Testimony  
House Criminal Justice Committee  
April 13, 2021

Submitted by:  
Constance Rubin

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 Connie Rubin. I am a retiree living in North Canton Ohio, whose two daughters graduated from Ohio's public schools. I am strongly opposed to the current HB 99 which seeks to allow school personnel or other civilians to carry loaded weapons with much lower requirements for training. I believe Ohio's weak laws on gun ownership have endangered our children; this law would further lower safeguards and put them at increased risk.

While schools around the US have suffered greatly from deaths due to guns, the probability of any school being a victim is extremely small. Encouraging the carrying of guns by trained school personnel, by poorly trained personnel or volunteers, or by law enforcement personnel increases the probability that accidents will happen, and doesn't assure safety of students.

That Ohio's legislature would consider lowering training requirements from 728 hours of Peace Officer training, to a mere 8 hours training as required for a conceal carry license is ludicrous, and extremely dangerous. It is also a pattern, as the Legislature has continued to lower the requirements for Conceal Carry training. This is not adequate to give anyone the skills to kill someone in a tense situation such as a school attack.

We already ask our teachers to do too much; to ask them to possibly kill one of the students in their school is asking too much and would add to any trauma such a situation would create. I hope you realize that the two biggest teachers' unions both oppose arming of teachers. The federal government's chief law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies also agree with me, and are unanimous in condemning allowing civilians to carry guns in schools.

Fiscally speaking, how are insurance companies going to react to having one or more minimally trained school personnel carrying loaded weapons? If an accident occurs and a child is injured or killed, would the school system be able to pay? This is an added expense schools don't need.

But most of all, they don't need poorly trained personnel carrying loaded weapons to try to prevent an event that is unlikely to happen--a mass shooting in a school.

Please stop HB 99 in its tracks. Keep our students safe, without guns.

Thank you,  
Constance Rubin