

Testimony on House Bill 99
House Criminal Justice Committee
March 24, 2021

Submitted by:
Ann Shroyer

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[YOUR NAME]

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 [YOUR NAME] and I am a [parent, grandparent, student, resident of X, etc.]

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 Ann Shroyer and I am a resident of Delaware County and the mother of a public elementary school student. I moved here last fall from Central Pennsylvania, but was born and raised in Northwest Ohio. I began paying closer attention to gun related legislation 4 years ago when my son was a student in a church based preschool in PA, with a view of the Blue Mountain. The conceal carry laws in PA are such that a church has to opt out of allowing firearms on the property. One morning a church volunteer was in the gymnasium before the start of school, as were other early arriving students and their parents, grandparents, and younger siblings. This volunteer bent down to lift something and his loaded concealed handgun and its holster fell out of his pants and onto the floor where it spun on the floor in front of preschool children and when it stopped spinning was aimed at my son's preschool friend, all of 3 years old. If anything else had fallen out of that volunteer's pants that morning, it would have been a story on the evening news, but because it was a gun, somehow it was not considered a danger. Peanut butter was not allowed in the preschool, but a gun was. I then learned of an instance in a parochial private school in Chambersburg, PA in 2016 where a teacher who carried a firearm, set it on the back of a toilet when she used it and left the gun there. Subsequently 4 other children ages 6-8 used the bathroom after the teacher. The last child reported the gun and thankfully no one was injured. These are just two examples of irresponsible behavior with firearms around children. Having firearms in a school is dangerous at best and having

untrained, uncertified teachers and staff carrying firearms is exponentially worse. I have a brother-in-law who works as a law enforcement officer and has a written protocol about how to use the restroom while also carrying his service weapon, and yet a teacher would require 8 hours or less for any situation?

Anyone carrying a firearm around our children should have the highest level of training available, not the bare minimum or no training at all. It is an abandonment of your responsibility to keep our kids safe to pass this law. My child's safety is dependent upon you voting no on this dangerous bill

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Shroyer