

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

Submitted by Rita Williams

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 Rita Williams and I am a resident of Aurora, Ohio.

I am a mother and a grandmother. Several of my close relatives are responsible gun owners. Two of my sisters are teachers and my uncle was an assistant principal in Columbus, Ohio. My uncle tells a story of meeting one his former students years later, when he called for a tow truck after a breakdown. The younger man, who came to his rescue, looked at my uncle Tom and said, "Don't you remember me? I was the boy who came after you in the school hallway with a baseball bat." The boy grew up and is now employed. My uncle has retired. If there had been a gun at play, the situation may not have ended well.

There is no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools. Any parent will testify that children are impulsive and often make poor choices, which might include handling a firearm. There are documented instances of guns being stolen or misplaced and later found in the hands of students.

There are other, common-sense security precautions that we can use to keep our children safe in schools. Allowing firearms is not one of them.

Please vote no on this dangerous bill.

Respectfully,
Rita Williams
528 E. Garfield Rd.
Aurora, Oh 44202
Rita@booksofaurora.com