

My name is Abby Hersey and I am an Ohio resident and voter. I'm a mother to three girls, grandmother to two boys, wife, and business owner. I have lived in Columbus my whole life and I am writing this testimony as a very concerned citizen. HB99 would gut the training requirement for teachers to carry loaded handguns in schools. 8 hours of training is not nearly enough and arming teachers introduces new and unnecessary risks into schools.

Law enforcement professionals have been clear about the dangerous implications when individuals use and carry firearms without the proper training. The police chiefs from Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown sent a joint letter to the legislature on 12/8/20 opposing this type of legislation.

73 percent of US teachers oppose arming school staff. The pandemic has been incredibly stressful for our teachers, and adding the immense stress of knowing that their co-workers may have a gun and be untrained on how to use it is not something that needs to be added to their very full plate.

If more guns in more places were the answer to gun violence Ohio would be the safest place in the world. It is made clear on a daily basis that this simply is not true. We are in the midst of an epidemic of gun violence, and HB99 does nothing to stem this epidemic.

With respect,

Abby Hersey