

I am opposed to the passage of House Bill 99 because this proposal will place teachers and students at risk of injury or death. Along with the increase potential of becoming a criminal and civil liability against the armed teacher and the school district. It is grossly irresponsible to place educators in a position to confront an active shooter and make split second, life, and death decisions without adequate tactical, use of force, and defensive training. This law will endanger the lives of armed teachers because in a real school shooting police could accidentally shoot the armed teacher in friendly fire while actively pursuing the gunman. These high intensity situations should be left to the trained professionals in Law Enforcement and School's Resource Officers.

It is shameful that any legislator would be willing to substitute or cut corners on training when it is our children that will be at risk. We do not need more guns; we need more resources for higher learning.

This bill eliminates the environment for SAFE ZONE within a school. Students traumatized by gun violence want a safe space without guns in their classroom. Armed teachers can misplace their gun or even have it stolen in school, but if there are no guns present that risk becomes zero.

The response to increased school shootings should not be to arm teachers but to enact common sense gun laws that majority of Ohioans agree with: Red Flag Laws, Responsible Firearm Storage, Universal Background checks on all gun sales, and more resources to deal with mental health services in schools and within a community.

HB 99 is reckless, thoughtless, and dangerous for many. According to Everytown Research and Policy, The AFT-American Federation of Teachers, The NEA-National Education Association, The National Association of School Resource Officers, and The President of Chief Executive Officers of Police Chiefs of Major Cities is opposed to Arming Teachers.

And I along with The Cincinnati NAACP, am against Arming Teachers and HB-99.