

I am a retired Cincinnati Public Schools teacher. It is incomprehensible to me that HB99 may become law and would allow teachers to carry guns in schools. This is counter to everything we know about the mission of education and child development. Children learn best in an environment with opportunities for age appropriate skill development, exploration, creativity and structure. Parents send their children to school trusting that known best practices in teaching and learning are being utilized. Teachers are intensely focused on a multitude of educational, developmental, and management goals that enhance individual and group success for their students. Adding the stress of weapons in the building held by fellow teachers and the anxiety that comes with the possibility that a "loose cannon" may gain access to one of the guns, as well as the possibility that a horrific accident could occur, is counter to any level of benefit. More guns have not proven to make us safer in general. If they did, we wouldn't hold the international record for the most outlandish number of murders and suicides in the world. Finding more ways to arm people will only add to more ways for accidents, suicides and murder to happen. Putting guns in the hands of teachers is frivolous, unethical, and dangerous. HB99 is based on a notion, not evidence.

Teachers have a difficult job dedicated to the needs of the vast array of students that enter their schools. They are under a lot of performance stress. There is a teacher shortage because the profession is constantly under attack and other fields often offer better working conditions and pay. Adding the stress of actively managing guns in the schools will only disenfranchise more from this incredibly important profession.

The general public does not want teachers to carry guns in schools. Teachers don't want guns in schools. It seems the people who support this idea are those devoted to guns as a way to solve social ills, in spite of the fact that statistical research does not support that conclusion. It would be far more effective to provide funding for enhanced quality mental health services in schools than allowing faculty members to bring guns to schools. However, mental health services are expensive and it's always easier for politicians to offer cheap solutions to complex problems than spend the money to support real needs. Do what's right for students, teachers and families and stand firmly against HB99