

My name is Shannon Mulligan and I am an Ohio resident and voter. I am also a mom of an 8-year-old, a wife, and a business owner and have lived in Columbus for 10 years. I am writing this testimony as a very concerned citizen. HB99 would gut the training requirement for school personnel to carry loaded handguns in schools. 8 hours of training is not nearly enough and arming teachers and other personnel introduces new and unnecessary risks into schools.

I can't imagine the stress that teachers find themselves under during the pandemic. Adding another stress that their co-workers may have a gun and is untrained on how to use it is not a stress that needs to be added to their very full plate.

In virtually every way that can be measured, owning a firearm makes the owner, the owner's family, and the people around them less safe. Put moments of rage or malice aside, and catastrophes still keep happening, due in part to Americans' collective overconfidence in their gun-handling skills.

For decades, the world has witnessed a colossal natural experiment in gun laws. With one exception, virtually all developed countries strictly regulate firearms, especially handguns. If there were any merit to the "defensive gun use" argument, you'd expect that one permissive nation to boast much greater safety. Instead, the one outlier nation—the United States—suffers the deadliest levels of gun violence. Guns everywhere engender violence everywhere. We are in an epidemic of gun violence. HB99 does nothing to stem this epidemic. Please vote no on this bill

With respect,
Shannon Mulligan