

Criminal Justice Committee
Opposition testimony for HB 99
Dr. N. Faraji

Dear Rep. LaRe and Committee Members;

I'm a physician in N.E. Ohio and my wife is a school psychologist working in a K-12 public school. We are a young couple and we vote regularly. I am writing to strongly oppose HB 99. I urge you to reject this bill in order to ensure the safety of your constituents.

If you pass HB 99, a mere 28 hours of weapons training (with just a few hours on the shooting range) will become the lowest legal standard for districts to allow civilians to carry guns in schools. There will be at least some, perhaps many, schools who will then choose this inexpensive route for arming staff. Introducing more guns in schools increases the risks of gun violence, even if accidental. There have been documented instances of guns being discharged by school staff on school grounds and guns being misplaced or stolen and ending up in the hands of students. Naturally, I am very concerned for my wife's safety. And, as a physician, I am concerned for the health of my patients. I ask you to listen to school professionals and the medical community and reject bills like HB 99.

I therefore urge you to vote no on HB 99.

Thank you for your attention,
Dr. N. Faraji