

A1§4 Protection PAC

November 4, 2021

RE: Support for Sub H.B.99

Good morning, Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, ranking member Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. I testify today in support of Sub H.B.99.

Since the Sandy Hook massacre in 2012 the nation has reevaluated school safety and security. Aided by a law dating back into last century, Ohio led the nation in improvements and has been a model for the country. It is something we should be proud of.

This past June, the Ohio Supreme Court wrongly concluded that two sections of law that were never intended to have anything to do with one another were related. Employing judicial activism they ruled that “best practice” and 200 school emergency response plans were illegal. In their ruling they said the law “must” be interpreted as they ruled “until the General Assembly directs otherwise...” It is past time for this body to do so.

Our children, no matter what kind of school they attend, deserve to be protected. Schools and staff have a legal and moral obligation to protect the children in their custody, and they take that obligation seriously. Many have laid their own life down to protect stranger’s children.

Passing Substitute H.B. 99 starts down the road of correcting a grave wrong that endangers our communities. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

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