



VETERANS AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date May, 27, 2022

Name: Jaladah Aslam

Address: 3895 Cannon Rd.  
Austintown, OH 44515

Telephone: 330-727-5758

Organization Representing: MLK Planning Committee of Mahoning Valley

Testifying on Bill Number: HB 99

Testimony:  Verbal  Written  Both

Testifying As:  Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?  Yes  No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website



# Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

## Planning Committee

**CO-CONVENERS:**

Jaladah Aslam  
Rev. Kenneth Simon  
Penny Wells

**COMMITTEE:**

Rev. William J. Blake  
Rev. Robert L. Faulkner, Sr.  
Gwendolyn Fish  
Deanna Ford  
Dr. Jacob Labendz  
Rev. Jim Ray  
Dr. Thomas Sauline  
Terry Vicars  
Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry  
Michaela Write

**CONVENERS EMERITI:**

Rabbi Joel Berman  
Rev. Dr. David Kaminsky  
Rev. Dr. Lewis W. Macklin II  
Rev. Lonnie K.A. Simon

**SUPPORTED BY:**

**ACTION**  
The Baptist Pastors' Council  
The Catholic Diocese of Youngstown  
City of Youngstown  
Community Mobilization Coalition  
Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance  
The Islamic Society of Greater Youngstown  
Leadership Mahoning Valley  
Mahoning Valley Association of Churches  
Mahoning Valley Historical Society  
Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past  
Youngstown Branch NAACP  
The Youngstown Islamic Center  
Youngstown State University  
The Youngstown Symphony Society

May 27, 2022

Chairman Frank Hoagland  
Senate Veterans & Public Safety Committee  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square; 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Hoagland,

The MLK Planning Committee of the Mahoning Valley focus on continuing the dream and vision of our beloved Dr. King and doing so in a non-violent way. That is why we are adamantly opposed to the passage of HB 99.

Ohio continues to pass laws that make us less safe by making it easier for citizens to purchase and carry firearms. HB 99 is one of those bills. Teachers are trained to educate our children, not be security guards. Permitting educators and other school personnel to bring guns into schools will not stop gun violence. It will not stop the murdering of babies at schools. We absolutely agree that measures need to be taken to protect our children, however adding more guns will not help. Those guns may be misused, stolen, or the weapon utilized in an unintentional shooting.

Our nation recently suffered another mass shooting of innocent children at a school in Uvalde, Texas. The week before that, elderly African Americans were gunned down at a grocery store in Buffalo. We believe that bringing more guns around children will lead to more deaths and injuries of those children. The answer isn't more guns. The answer is to remove access of weapons of war to non-military citizens. We must stop giving regular citizens guns that are meant to spray down dozens of humans within seconds. There is nothing peaceful about this practice and the continued push to arm every person. We insist that our state, as well as our nation, put an end to these horrific acts of violence by eliminating the real problem—easy access to assault weapons.

Please, do not pass HB 99!

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee

Cc: Sen. Cecil Thomas, Ranking Member