

I would like to thank the Senate Veterans and Public Safety committee for allowing me to testify. My name is Nancy Fingerhood and I live in Canfield, Ohio. I work part-time as a substitute teacher in Mahoning county.

I urge you to vote no on HB 99. There are good reasons why arming teachers is opposed by school safety experts, teachers, and law enforcement. First, when a gun is in the classroom, students can get access to it. There have been multiple incidents of students and teachers finding misplaced firearms: in bathrooms, locker rooms, even sporting events. The notion of a highly trained teacher armed with a gun, able to respond as quickly as trained law enforcement is a myth.

Research shows that regularly trained law enforcement officers' accuracy rate in active shooter situations ranges from 18% to 43% (Rostker, et al., 2008). The low accuracy rates are most often attributed to the high stress elements of these encounters (Lewinski, et al., 2013; Vickers & Lewinski, 2012) and are not a regular focal point of legislative hearings.

Research has shown that increased gun access and gun possession are not associated with protection from violence, which suggests that increasing the presence of guns in the hands of civilians in schools, no matter how well intentioned, may backfire.

More importantly, educators themselves do not want to be armed in their classrooms. Please do not put our children in more jeopardy. Vote no on HB 99.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5993409/#bib6>