

Testimony on House Bill 99
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Submitted by:
Katherine Burke

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in opposition to HB 99.

I am very concerned about HB 99 and am in strong opposition. My daughter Vivian is finishing her freshman year in high school, and the idea of armed teachers with so little training in the schools is alarming. HB 99 would reduce the training requirement down to only 22 hours. Studies indicate that even highly trained police officers' accuracy and effectiveness is greatly diminished in an active shooter situation.¹ How can we expect teachers with so little training to safely and accurately deal with an active shooter?

HB99 will not make our children safer; research shows that having guns in school makes our children less safe. All mass school shootings in recent years have been with an AR-15, a handgun is no match. Furthermore, 100% of school shootings have been committed by current or former students, so this bill asks teachers to be prepared to kill their current or former student. This is a burden we can not ask teachers to bear.

Instead of arming teachers, we need to pass universal background checks, red flag laws, and safe storage laws. We need to improve mental health care for our youth, and work on anti-bullying in schools.²

For the safety of all of Ohio's school children, please reject HB 99 and focus instead on legislation that would prevent school shootings before they occur..

Respectfully,

Katherine Burke, Stow, Ohio

1. <https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/shooting-accuracy-agency/>
2. <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/keeping-our-schools-safe-a-plan-to-stop-mass-shootings-and-end-all-gun-violence-in-american-schools/>