

Opposition testimony Sub. HB99
May 31, 2022
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Submitted by Shaun Van Staden

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, ranking member Thomas and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony against Sub.HB99.

Twenty-two hours of firearms training when it is currently over seven hundred hours is a dramatic reduction that actually puts students in greater danger than before. No research or trainer will tell you that 22 hours is sufficient to keep anyone safe from an active shooter. In addition, it is wrong not to notify parents when their child's teacher is armed. Research clearly shows that when children are exposed to guns their chances of being shot increases (Everytown). Many parents do not want their children near anyone armed. It's irresponsible and wrong not to share such information.

Law enforcement and education agencies uniformly oppose allowing guns in schools with such insufficient training. Last year the chiefs of police of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown opposed reducing firearm training to 22 hours: "Significantly reducing firearm training for school personnel will make our schools less safe and increase the likelihood that a student will be unintentionally harmed or killed by a firearm in a school."

If the General Assembly were going to reduce the number of hours required for carrying a loaded firearm into an Ohio school, the amount and type of training should first be approved in writing by the applicable law enforcement agencies before changing current law.

Shaun Van Staden.