

I oppose HB 99. I graduated in high school 1999 shortly after the Columbine school shooting. School shootings have always been a part of my adult life. I began studying education in college earning both an undergraduate degree in K-12 Education and a Master's of Educational Leadership. Gun violence and school shootings have always been a part of my career educating children. During my career, we have studied the various causes of gun violence in schools, prevention strategies, and practiced realistic active shooter drills more times than I can remember. School shootings should not demand such a large part of my professionalism. We do not need more guns. With more guns in school, more students will have access to guns. We need more data backed solutions.

The idea of arming teachers may sound like a good idea to individuals outside of education. Individuals that have not spent years in the classrooms may not know that drills are nothing like the chaos of real emergencies. I can barely lock my door fast enough in an active shooter situation, let alone unlock a handgun to fight back against someone with an assault rifle. We can simply look at recent events to realize that more people with guns cannot stop tragedy.

In education we often compare our test scores to those in other countries. Let us compare what other countries do to prevent school shootings. Let us finally decide what we will value more in America, CHILDREN.