

**Opposition Testimony to House Bill 99
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee**

**Submitted by:
Janie Halaiko**

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

My name is Janie Halaiko, and I am a retired Ohio Public School Teacher/Administrator with 35 years of experience. I served as an Elementary School Principal for over 20 years.

I am very concerned about HB 99, and I am in strong opposition.

The research is clear that bringing guns into classrooms will make children less safe. I do not think this is a well thought out plan of arming teachers. Where will the teachers store these guns? Do they carry them with them all day long? What if a student accidentally gets access to these guns? What if the teacher, who carries the gun is absent from school? Is the substitute in charge of the gun? This is a nightmare waiting to happen. I can tell you from my years of experience this is not an effective way to deal with school shootings, and, in fact, may increase risks. The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation's two largest teachers' organizations, oppose arming teachers. The National Association of School Resource Officers strongly oppose this proposal to arm teachers, due to the risk it would pose to law enforcement, students, and the school community, as well as the risks to the armed teachers themselves. For the Safety of all Ohio's school children, please reject HB99! We can do better than this flawed, proposed bill.

Has anyone addressed the Liability Insurance issue that arise for school districts as soon as you arm teachers? Who pays that astronomical bill?

Please allow our teachers across Ohio to do what they were trained to do – Teach!

Sincerely

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