

Testimony on House Bill 99
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Submitted by:
Eoghan Gallagher

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.

I am a gun owner who is very concerned about HB 99 and am in strong opposition. I understand that the goal of HB99 is to keep Ohio's children safer, but in fact, I believe strongly that it will do the opposite. The events of the past two weeks in Buffalo, NY and especially in Uvalde, Texas have me wondering if 19 armed police officers who are trained for handling stressful situations with active shooters in schools, performed so poorly letting all those kids suffer and die, how can we expect teachers with so little training to protect our kids in such situations. It feels like we're barking up the wrong tree on this one. It is hopeful at best to think that HB99 will save lives in an active shooter situation, but it appears clear that it is far more likely that untrained teachers with guns will lead to more accidental shootings or even worse, to kids getting their hands on their teachers' guns and causing more unnecessary injuries and death. Please don't pass this bill. There must be more effective solutions to deal with this threat.

Respectfully,

Eoghan Gallagher, Columbus, OH