

Testimony on Ohio House Bill 99 Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Submitted by: Martin Kohn, PhD

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my testimony today. I have been an educator for over 50 years with a doctoral degree in Secondary Education. I have taught in both secondary and higher education as well as adult education. I am proud to say that our younger son is now finishing up his 6th year of teaching in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. We have 5 school age grandchildren. I am testifying today to let you know that arming ill-trained—or even well-trained-- teachers is not the way to protect our children from gun violence.

I urge you to OPPOSE any legislation, including, especially, HB99, which would allow teachers and others to carry loaded guns in schools. Such bills are dangerous. Teachers oppose them, insurance companies oppose them (as experts on risk assessment!). THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFER, such as Extreme Risk laws, secure gun storage laws, and evidence-based threat assessment programs (see <https://tinyurl.com/ETSchoolSafety>). Seventeen percent of mass shootings are done by 18-20 year olds, but they make up only 4% of the population. I suggest you raise the age to purchase any gun in Ohio to 21 years.

I appreciate your desire to have safer schools – please use sensible and evidence-based approaches to guide your future efforts, and Vote NO on HB 99. Please consider the EVIDENCE on how to decrease firearm injuries and OPPOSE this dangerous bill. Thank you for considering my testimony.