Testimony on House Bill 99
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Submitted by:
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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 writing you in opposition to HB 99, however I am in support of arming our teachers.

I want you to arm them with funding to support the work they do to educate our children.

I want you to arm their schools with social workers that can provide wrap around services to students and families so that being hungry, homeless, or lacking the supports they need do not impede their education.

I want you to arm our teachers with trust to do their jobs to teach our children so that they may have the knowledge they need to go out into the world to fix what needs to be fixed, heal what needs to be healed, and explore what needs to be found.

I want you to arm our teachers with the ability to support all of our children and their families, no matter who they love or how they identify.

I want you to arm our teachers with the understanding that they know how to teach our children that mistakes have been made throughout history to disproportionately impact their black and brown friends, and that they have the chance to fix that.

Teachers, majority of parents, and law enforcement do not support educators carrying guns. This is not the way to protect our children and it will most certainly end in more being hurt or killed.

We have seen that even trained law enforcement cannot protect our children when anyone can purchase an assault style weapon. We can not ask our teachers to have that responsibility in addition to all they already carry. I would feel even more unsafe sending my child to a school where teachers carry weapons.

I am begging you to please oppose HB 99. Consider meeting with lawmakers across the aisle to come up with ways to TRULY protect our children and their right to a safe, gun free education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.