

Testimony on House Bill 99

House Criminal Justice Committee

April 14, 2021

Submitted by: Lynn Lunoe

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 99. My name is Lynn Lunoe. I am a resident of Rocky River, Ohio, and a parent and a grandparent.

Please do not allow any further hearings on HB 99. This bill should go no further.

It is a dangerous bill that would threaten the lives of students, staff and volunteers inside Ohio schools. Schools should be safe for all. Putting firearms in schools is dangerous in and of itself. Putting those firearms in the hands of insufficiently trained hands is even more dangerous. In fact, any gun in the hands of a person with limited training is not safe anywhere, but is *especially* unsafe in schools.

HB 99 would exempt teachers from rigorous firearm training. It would allow school districts to deploy armed personnel in schools with as little as 8 hours of concealed carry training, 6 hours of which can be completed online. Or they could deploy with no training at all, if their firearms are not concealed when carried.

In Ohio, law enforcement officers receive an average of 840 hours of basic training, including 168 hours of training on weapons, self-defense, and the use of force. That same standard should apply as a **minimum requirement** for anyone carrying a gun in an Ohio schools. They should be required to have additional training on dealing with young people in school settings.

Please do not bring HB 99 out of committee. The lives of Ohio children and educators are at stake.

HB 99 guts Ohio's current firearms training laws and allows teachers to carry guns in schools without extensive safety training, putting the lives of children, teachers, parents and support staff at dire risk.

You, as our state leaders, should provide reasonable and thoughtful leadership on *any* issue regarding guns, especially if they are carried inside schools. These important guidelines should not be left to local governments and school boards. State leadership – that's you, the Ohio General Assembly - has the **constitutional responsibility** to protect Ohio school children. The provisions in this HB 99 will endanger children, not protect them.

In some other states, liability insurance providers have declined coverage to school districts with relaxed gun safety training provisions. Other companies have increased annual premiums to districts with lax gun safety requirements, stretching already tight school budgets. Let's spend money to educate Ohio's children, not pay more tax dollars to insurance companies to mitigate catastrophes that are preventable with reasonable gun safety legislation.

Abandon HB 99.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Lynn Lunoe

Rocky River, Ohio

Ohio voter and advocate for safe, sensible gun legislation in Ohio