

Testimony on House Bill 99 – Arming Untrained Teachers
House Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by:
Tara Talgar

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 HB 99.

Why is this committee not focused on ways to get children safely back to school after the all they have endured during this year of dealing with the pandemic? It is extremely tone deaf to be focused on arming teachers in this time of crisis. Any of the teachers I know are asking how they can safely go back to work during this difficult time. They are not pushing for legislation that will require them to be sharp shooters.

I am a mother to two elementary students and a middle school student and our family is anxiously waiting to see what the plans for school will be in the fall in the middle of a global pandemic. It would be nice to think that our lawmakers had the same concerns. Moving forward with this bill is certainly not a way to show concern for the safety of students or teachers. Especially not when our country is still reeling from two mass shootings in one week – Atlanta and Boulder.

More guns do NOT make us safer. More guns put us in more danger. You are 25 times more likely to be shot and killed in the United States than in any other developed nation.* There has been record sales of guns during the pandemic. What is our legislature doing to figure out how to make us safer from guns?

The idea of allowing teachers with only a couple of hours of training to carry concealed weapons in schools without requirement to notify parents horrifies me. How can you in good conscience make the decision to put all of Ohio's children in the line of fire? What data supports your decision? What studies have been done to show that this is a good idea?

I urge you not to move forward with this dangerous bill. Vote NO on HB 99.

Sincerely,
Tara Talgar

*<https://www.fastcompany.com/3056273/youre-25-times-more-likely-to-be-shot-to-death-in-america-than-any-other-developed-nation>