

**Criminal Justice Committee
Opposition Testimony on HB 99
Sammie Dannug**

To the Chairman and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify on this important legislation. My name is Sammie Dannug and I am a teacher at Jackson Middle School in Massillon, Oh. I firmly oppose HB 99 and Sub Bill 99.

In 2018, I experienced an attempted school shooting that ended with the shooter taking his own life in the school bathroom. My classroom was just 2 doors down from that bathroom. I am convinced that having teachers or other "authorized" civilians carrying guns in the school, with fewer than 30 hours of training and a few hours annual follow-up would have made no difference in this situation. Teachers are not going to want to shoot students. Community volunteers or some other adult will likely be unpredictable in their response to such a crises. I'm afraid they will just make the situation worse. According to a Mega study by the Rand Corp., there is no evidence that having armed personnel in schools prevents school shootings.[1] Such policing is best left to "Peace Officers" with the extensive training required by current law.

I am very concerned black and brown children, bigger and louder boys, or children with learning disorders or hearing loss, who have trouble following directions, will all be more likely to be perceived as a threat. If a gun is at hand, a staff member may commit a deadly mistake. To deter school shootings, the safest place for guns is far away from school. Please vote NO on HB 99 and keep me and my students safe.

Sincerely,
Sammie Dannug

1. "The Science of Gun Policy: A Critical Synthesis of Research Evidence on the Effects of Gun Policies in the United States [Second Edition]." is available at www.rand.org.