

Criminal Justice Committee
Opposition Testimony on HB 99
Submitted by: Kate Dieble

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 Kate Dieble and I strongly oppose HB 99 and Sub Bill HB 99. I am very concerned because this bill basically empowers or “authorizes” armed vigilantes in our schools. It makes it clear these people are not security guards. What are they, then and who do they answer to? Twenty-eight hours of training and a few hours of annual brush up is nowhere near enough to make someone into a law enforcement officer with life or death control over our children. We have seen a dangerous trend towards Vigilante “justice” in our country lately. It has NO PLACE in our schools.

Even thoroughly trained police often make poor decisions or shoot inaccurately in stressful situations. We cannot expect teachers or civilians with only 28 hours of training (much of which can be done online) to make life and death decisions. We cannot expect them to take the life of a student or accurately shoot into a crowd of children. We cannot assume that they will always safely store their weapon where a child cannot get hold of it. Many innocent lives will be lost due to this bill. The emotional trauma for students, staff and the community in these instances will be enormous. Vote NO on HB 99.

I find it very troubling that this bill was designed to overrule an Ohio Supreme Court Decision (Gabbard v. Madison Local School Dist. Bd. of Edn.) in which the Court ruled in favor of parents because their school district armed teachers or other personnel without adequate training. If people are going to be armed in schools, they should have the 700+ hours of Peace Officer training that current law provides. Please do not use our children as legal pawns in your lawsuits.

Respectfully,

Kate Dieble

