

Criminal Justice Committee  
Committee  
Opposition Testimony HB 99  
Submitted by Matt Harmon  
11/1/2021

Dear Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, and Ranking Member Leland, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

I strongly oppose HB 99. I am a successful businessman and the father of 2 young children who attend Jackson Local Schools. I have worked hard to provide a wonderful home and education in this lovely suburban and rural area. I expect my children to be safe and well-cared for by thoroughly qualified teachers at school. I object most strongly to having them in a classroom all day near loaded weapons, especially when those weapons are handled by adults with only 20-30 hours firearm training! I would not hire unqualified people to be my child's caregiver for a few hours at home. I certainly would not want them close to my child all day at school. If a school police officer IS in the schools, they need to be thoroughly trained in handling their gun, crises management and de-escalation techniques. A couple of hours on the firing range and 20 of "general training" is certainly not enough for this incredible responsibility.

There have already been 90+ publicly reported incidents in our nation's schools where a student got hold of an adult's gun and, in some cases, actually fired the gun. There have even been incidents where an adult shot themselves by accident. This is NOT what I want to have to worry about when I put my child on the bus. There's no evidence that having more guns in schools, especially in the hands of untrained civilians, reduces school shootings. If a school police officer IS in the schools, they need to be extensively trained as an Peace Officer.

Please protect our children. Vote NO on HB 99.

Thank you,  
Matt Harmon