

**Opposition Testimony on House Bill 99**  
**House Criminal Justice Committee**  
**Nov 2, 2021**

**Submitted by:**  
**William Koltek**

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 William Koltek and I live in the rural community of Louisville, Ohio. I oppose HB 99.

This bill allows vigilantes to become, defacto, school police. School Boards will be allowed to "authorize" anyone they wish to concealed carry on school grounds. However, the bill states that these people will not be paid security guards. This leaves many Ohioans scratching our heads and wondering who these armed people will report to and how will their behavior be supervised? Teachers have to get a masters degrees just to teach math to our kids. By current law, School Peace Officers have to complete 730 hrs of training. But these quasi-police (or whatever they are!) will have to complete just 28 hours of training (most of it not on the firing range I assume) plus 2-4 hrs of follow-up training annually and then they will allowed to roam our schools with loaded dangerous weapons.

Teachers or school staff can also be "authorized" to carry by Boards and have guns in their classroom or on their person where students can get hold of them, as has already happened in numerous documented incidents (see Gifford Law Center). Parents will have no way to find out whether teachers are carrying loaded weapons in their schools, The bill simply requires schools to acknowledge that " the board or governing body has authorized one or more persons to go armed within a school..."

The bill says School Boards can choose to add additional training but since schools have to pay for all of the training, many districts will default to the cheapest standard, the state standard set forward in HB 99 of just 28 hours.

to notify parents that “ the board or governing body has authorized one or more persons to go armed within a school...”

It is long past time for our elected officials to consider the welfare of their constituents above the welfare of the firearm industry and the National Rifle Association, whose corruption has recently been the subject of much attention. HB 99 is a terrible idea that refuses to die. If it passes, however, we can expect that some of our fellow Ohioans, including some of our children, will.

Sincerely,  
William Koltek