

Testimony of House Bill 99
Criminal Justice Committee
November 4, 2021

Submitted by:
Andrea Kovesdi

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 HB99. My name is Andrea Kovesdi and I am a very concerned citizen.

If the purpose of HB99 is to ensure the safety of Ohio's school children, it completely misses the mark. First of all, the fact that our children need armed "guards" in their schools should be of major concern to everyone whether or not they have children in our schools. What kind of society sends its children to school knowing that they may come face to face with a "school-shooter"? We must ask ourselves why these types of incidents are happening in the wealthiest country in the world and what can be done to stop them from happening.

When it comes to preventing another senseless and tragic school shooting, HB99 doesn't even attempt to address the real problems faced by school administrators across Ohio. It is a mere "band-aid" that lives solely on the hope that a "good guy with a gun" will be able to save the day if and when an armed perpetrator enters school grounds with the intent to maim and/or kill innocent school children. The fact of the matter is this is real life not a Lifetime movie and in real life it is "...unrealistic to believe that a teacher would be able to protect their students, neutralize a shooter and not be a risk to themselves or their students" Keeping our Schools Safe, Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, 2021

There are steps that can be taken to prevent another school shooting. Steps such as passing Extreme Risk Protection Orders as in SB138, a bipartisan bill that sits idly by while this body continues to look for ways to put more guns in the hands of more people (many of whom should not be entrusted with a potentially lethal weapon).

Other steps that can be taken to ensure that our communities and schools are protected from gun violence are Safe Storage laws and Threat Assessment programs to identify those who may require intervention before an act of violence is committed. There are thoughtful and insightful ways to prevent gun violence. HB99 is not one of them. Please stop this bill from going any further.