

Russia Local School

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of House Bill 99, which gives school districts the ability to have a board approved armed staff within a school building. Russia School is a small rural school with no village police department, and a response time from the Sheriff's Office that could be over 20 minutes. With the majority of school shootings only lasting a few minutes, a 20 minutes response time is unacceptable. Russia Local School developed our armed response plan in 2013 after the tragedy at Sandy Hook in a partnership with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. The district held public meetings prior to implementing our policy to gather input from the community and the community strongly supported our plan at that time, and even more so today.

In my opinion, Russia School is a model district when it comes to training our approved staff members. Each approved staff member has completed substantial training with the Sheriff's Office, as well as the FASTER Program. This training includes range training throughout the year and scenario training within the school building. All armed staff members, as well as numerous other staff within the building, have received advanced medical trauma training to offer medical care in an emergency situation. We are confident that our overall safety plan, which includes an armed response plan, would save countless lives in an active shooter situation.

Russia School and its community strongly believe that every school district should have the right to develop their own safety plan that works best for their community. It is vitally important that we pass HB 99 and remove the excessive mandate of full OPOTA training for an employee to be armed within a school building. We thank you for your service to the State of Ohio and we ask for your support in HB 99.

Sincerely,



Steven Rose
Superintendent
Russia Local School

"WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST"