

HB 99 Opponent Testimony
House Criminal Justice Committee
Submitted by:
Constance Rubin

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 Connie Rubin. I am a retiree living in North Canton Ohio, whose two daughters graduated from Ohio's public schools. I am strongly opposed to HB 99 which seeks to allow school personnel or other civilians to carry loaded weapons with much lower requirements for training. I believe Ohio's weak laws on gun ownership have endangered our children; this law would further lower safeguards and put them at increased risk.

While children around the US have suffered greatly from deaths due to guns, the probability of any school being the site of a mass school shooting is extremely small. Encouraging the carrying of guns by school personnel, by poorly trained personnel or volunteers, or by law enforcement personnel increases the probability that accidents will happen, and doesn't assure safety of students.

That Ohio's legislature would consider lowering training requirements from 728 hours of Peace Officer training, to a mere 28 hours training (as described in Sub Bill HB 99) is ludicrous, and extremely dangerous. It is also a pattern, as the Legislature has continued to lower the requirements for Conceal Carry training. This is not adequate to give anyone the skills to kill someone in a tense situation such as a school attack.

There is nothing in this Sub Bill to prevent teachers from being "authorized to carry loaded weapons in the classroom. So in many schools, this bill will result in teachers carrying guns in schools with minimal training, something parents and educators have made clear they strongly disapprove of.

The bill also expands who else carry guns in schools, basically to anyone a School Board chooses. It clearly states that these people are not paid security guards. So who do they report to? Basically they are vigilantes, like Kyle Rittenhouse, or the

January 6th protestors or the Texans who will be suing women choosing to seek an abortion. Vigilantes do not belong in our schools.

I hope you realize that the two biggest teachers' unions both oppose arming of teachers. The federal overnment's chief law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies also agree with me, and are unanimous in condemning allowing civilians to carry guns in schools.

Fiscally speaking, how are insurance companies going to react to having one or more minimally trained personnel carrying loaded weapons? If an accident occurs and a child is injured or killed, would the school system be able to pay? This is an added expense schools don't need.

But most of all, they don't needed poorly trained personnel carrying loaded weapons to try to prevent an event that is unlikely to happen--a mass shooting in a school.

Please Vote NO on HB 99 in its tracks. Keep our students safe, without guns.

Thank you,
Constance Rubin