

## Opponent Testimony on House Bill 99

House Criminal Justice Committee

November 4, 2021

Submitted by:

Ann Shroyer

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 Ann Shroyer and I am a resident of Delaware County and the mother of a public elementary school student. I moved here back to Ohio nearly 2 years ago from Central Pennsylvania, but was born and raised in Northwest Ohio. I began paying closer attention to gun related legislation 4 years ago when my son was a student in a church based preschool in PA, with a view of the Blue Mountain. The conceal carry laws in PA are such that a church has to opt out of allowing firearms on the property. One morning a church volunteer was in the gymnasium before the start of school, as were other early arriving students and their parents, grandparents, and younger siblings. This volunteer bent down to lift something and his loaded concealed handgun and its holster fell out of his pants and onto the floor where it spun on the floor in front of preschool children and when it stopped spinning was aimed at my son's preschool friend, all of 3 years old. If anything else had fallen out of that volunteer's pants that morning, it would have been a story on the evening news, but because it was a gun, somehow it was not considered a danger. Peanut butter was not allowed in the preschool, but a gun was. I then learned of an instance in a parochial private school in Chambersburg, PA in 2016 where a teacher who carried a firearm, set it on the back of a toilet when she used it and left the gun there. Subsequently 4 other children ages 6-8 used the bathroom after the teacher. The last child reported the gun and thankfully no one was injured. These are just two examples of irresponsible behavior with firearms around children. Having firearms in a school is dangerous at best and having untrained, uncertified teachers and staff carrying firearms is exponentially worse. I have a brother-in-law who works as a law enforcement officer and has a written protocol about how to use the restroom while also carrying his service weapon, and yet a teacher would require little to no training to have a loaded weapon around our children?

I am also tired of the romanticization of rural areas just knowing firearms and needing no formal training. I grew up in a rural area of Ohio with cows as my neighbors. I remember hiding in our kitchen as someone was taking long distance target practice at the tall oak tree in our front yard. I cannot remember many stop signs that DID NOT have bullet holes in them as we drove around/rode in the school bus. You tell me if shooting at a stop sign is a good sign of checking a target's background.

Anyone carrying a firearm around our children should have the highest level of training available, not the bare minimum or no training at all. It is an abandonment of your responsibility to keep our kids safe to pass this law. My child's safety is dependent upon you voting no on this dangerous bill

More children have died of COVID in less than 2 years in this country than died in school shootings in a 10 year span from 2009-2019 and yet this legislature will not issue any statewide protections for children with masks but you mandate 3 active shooter drills a year and now want to arm teachers with little to no training. If the party line is that parents know best, than apply that policy here as well. This parent wants no guns in schools. Prove that bills like this are not just showing allegiance and fealty to the gun lobbies who donate to your campaigns. Show that your role here in the statehouse is not just about money and profits for the gun lobby, gun manufacturers, and affiliated industries and YOU - and that you do actually care about safety of actual Ohioans and Vote no on HB 99

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Shroyer