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With more than 100 people killed with guns a day in the United States, introducing HB 99 will create more dangerous situations among, students, teachers, school employees, and others. Guns are a very dangerous weapon and without the proper training and understanding of the object it can create conflict of how to use it in the right situation. By reducing the amount of training teachers would have to fulfill to carry a gun in the school, poses a potential story for disaster.

The Ohio House of Representatives are considering on heavily reducing teacher training on carrying a gun in elementary, middle, and/or high through HB 99. This bill would upend tradition law that currently requires all armed school employees to complete approved basic peace officer training course that is about 728 hours of instruction or have completed 20 years of active duty as a peace officer. The HB 99 would exempt teachers to require this training and only must complete as little as an 8-hour concealed carry course. Keeping in mind that majority (6 hours) of the concealed carry course is online, leaving the remaining 2 hours with hands on experience.

Guns carry a large threat and bringing them into schools with teachers having little training causes an even larger threat. Through out the school day many items can be misplaced or lost. With students asking questions, lecturing, and activities throughout the day, people tend to lose track of the important things. There have been many incidents where guns carried into schools were misplaced, like leaving it in the bathrooms, lockers rooms, sport events, etc. Along with several incidents where guns were stolen from teachers by students.

I am a second year attending The Ohio State University an on the executive board of Students Demand Action at The Ohio State University. I have lived in Ohio for the majority of my life and have seen my fair share of shootings on the news. Introducing this can create more shootings and yet another news story.

A memorable moment in my life that changed me occurred on June 15, 2015, when my Sensei (karate instructor), Sonny Kim, was shot and killed from responding to a call while on duty as a police officer of a dangerous man walking around the streets with a gun in hand. My Sensei was a great man and did nothing but put me in a good mood when attending his karate classes in the evening. Due to a gun being in the wrong hands with a person who was mentally unable to bear the responsibility of a gun and irresponsible gun control laws allowed a man that I deeply cared for be ripped away in my life.

Even well-trained police officer sometimes cannot even deescalate the situation effectively, so how is it expected that a minimally trained teacher is able to confront the situation. Bringing another gun into the question can cause more harm than good. With easier access to a firearm, irrespective of age, tripled the risk of death by suicide and doubles the risk of death by homicide. Why increase the shooting risk just to make it easier for teachers to carry a firearm? If there is a larger concern for the safety of the teachers, school employees, and students there can be better ways to solve the situations without introducing more guns into the picture. There could be more safety measures the schools could enforce with who is entering and exiting

the building, better logging system, increase stationed officers in schools, along with many other options.

More guns do not need to be the solution to prevent shooters entering and killing others. I urge lawmakers to prevent this harmful bill from moving forward.