

Criminal Justice Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 99 and Sub Bill HB 99
from Seth Wannemacher

Dear Chairman LaRe and Members of the Committee:

I am an Ohio resident and voter. My fiance is a kindergarten teacher working in a public school in Northeast Ohio. I strongly oppose HB 99 and its latest Sub Bill. The Sub Bill would reduce training of armed adults in schools from the current requirement of 700+ hour to fewer than 30 hours, only a few of which may involve actually firing weapons. A School Board could choose to “authorize” their friends, community members, teachers, coaches, etc. The bill specifies that these people cannot be hired security guards. They would not report to any employer in the school system, then. *Basically, they would be vigilantes, making their own decisions on when to shoot a student or adult visitor to the school.* They could even end up shooting a teacher. I worry for my fiance’s safety.

Allowing civilians to carry guns in schools is a safety hazard for students and staff. Introducing more guns in schools increases the risk of gun violence, even if accidental. There have been many documented instances of guns being discharged by school staff on school grounds and guns being misplaced or stolen and ending up in the hands of students. According to a recent Rand Study, there is no evidence that armed security officers in schools increase school safety, let alone armed civilians with minimal training. [1]. Research shows that the presence of armed security officers may actually be harmful to students.[2]. I strongly urge you to Reject HB 99.

Respectfully,

Seth Wannemacher

1. [The Effects of Laws Allowing Armed Staff in K–12 Schools, April 22, 2020](https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis)
[https://www.rand.org › research › gun-policy › analysis](https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis)
2. [Security guards in school: Kids feel less safe, unclear effect on ...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/wonk/2012/12/21)
[https://www.washingtonpost.com › wonk › 2012/12/21](https://www.washingtonpost.com/wonk/2012/12/21)

