

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

SB 168 Sponsor Testimony | Senator Frank Hoagland

May 11, 2021

Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee – Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for Senate Bill 168.

Many of you will have heard me speak throughout my time in the Senate about the School Marshal Program. This is our next evolution. Senate Bill 168 is a crucial piece of legislation that would establish the Mobile Training Teams (or MTTs) throughout Ohio to be available to work hand in hand with the Governor's Ohio School Safety Center and school districts throughout the state. The term Mobile Training Teams comes from my early days serving in the United States Military. At that time, their intent was to ensure that allies had the equipment and necessary training to support their fighting force. This bill parallels that mission.

Senate Bill 168 was created to ensure that the safety of Ohio's schools rests in the hands of individuals who wake up every morning with this mission in mind: make Ohio's schools safer. This legislation would require the appointment of the Chief

Mobile Training Officer by the Director of Public Safety and 16 Mobile Training Officers. Mobile Training Officers will be required to meet quarterly weapons training recertification and will be responsible for the training of school safety designees, should a school district decide to utilize these individuals on their campuses. The term School Safety Designees includes School Resource Officers, security officers and any person authorized to carry a firearm in the school or school safety zone. This training will include weapons safety skills, threat identification, weapons safety and accuracy.

We currently rely on educators and administrators to plan, coordinate and conduct school safety procedures and practice drills. Senate Bill 168 would create the option of another tool in the toolbox: a partnership with the Mobile Training Officers to assist with safety procedures, training and drills. Mobile Training Officers will have the appropriate skills and background in order to assess, adapt, and implement school safety plans. Mobile Training Officers will also stress the importance of communication, accountability, and reunification in their training and implement these elements when assisting schools.

Senate Bill 168 was crafted with the intent **empower** administrators, teachers, and School Resource Officers to best serve and protect their schools through continuity of tools and training through partnership with the Mobile Training Officers. With the implementation of the Mobile Training Teams, Ohio will have the ability to be

a driving force for school safety and lead the way toward creating school environments where students and teachers can truly focus on their education, not school safety issues. With this bill, we will be implementing a well-organized force multiplier that focuses solely on the safety and security of Ohio's school. We will be making Ohio a safer place to educate our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 168 and I would be happy to answer any questions, at this time.