

## **Testimony on Senate Bill 168**

### **Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee**

June 15, 2021

Submitted by: Andrea Kovesdi

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 168.

While I appreciate that Ohio's children must be kept safe in their schools, I do not believe that arming teachers or staff is the way to keep them safe. When I was a child growing up in suburban Cleveland, we did not have school resource officers because the last place that anyone would think that a child would be shot and killed was in their school! Ask yourselves what has changed since then? I believe that the true problem is that there are more guns than people in this society.

My two (now adult) children graduated unscathed from our local public school system. But, the fact that a shooter could get into their school was always in the back of my mind. My son was four weeks old when the Columbine High School massacre occurred. One day, I hope to have grandchildren in our schools and I hope that this issue will no longer exist. I do not believe that bringing more guns into our schools is the answer. As our legislators, I expect you to address the root of the issues and not come up with more dangerous ideas such as this bill.