

Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Opposition Testimony SB 168

June 14, 2021

Dena Lishing

To the Chairman and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose SB 168. I live in Massillon Ohio and I am a nurse. My 11 year old son, Caleb, was shot and killed by an older teen who got hold of a gun at his Grandfather's house. The gun had been locked up in a drawer but he took the drawer apart with a screw driver and used it two days later to shoot Caleb. Guns should not be in schools where children can get hold of them, period. Even when a teacher or school officer thinks they have the gun in a safe place (maybe a locked drawer or in their holster) an older child with revenge or suicide on their mind can find a way to get it. Or a younger child can pick up a gun left unsecured by a busy staff member. There have already been many instances of where this has happened, including where a young child took a gun out of the officer's holster. There's no guarantee with this bill as to how much training these teachers or volunteers would end up getting. We deserve to know what you are planning and to have time to speak up about it. No family should have to go through this pain.

Please, you must vote NO on SB 168.

Sincerely,
Dena Lishing