

Testimony on Senate Bill 168

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

June 15, 2021

Submitted by:

Donna Malone

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

My name is Donna Malone, I am a resident of Toledo and I am a grandparent of grade school age grandchildren. And I can not understand why you keep trying to pass bills that allow guns in schools! Every person, from other local residents of Ohio to people who live in other states are aghast when I mention that in Ohio our legislators are trying to make it easier to arm teachers! I have been a registered nurse for over 40 years and have been trained in CPR to save lives for anyone whose heart has stopped or stopped breathing. Luckily, I have not had to use those skills working as a nurse nor as an individual outside of the hospital setting. But when the situation has arisen, no matter how much training it is an anxiety filled situation and until the rhythm of the 'code' is established, there is confusion.

I use this example, as I see a shooter in a school, to be a similar, high anxiety situation. There will be initial confusion on the part of the teachers as well as the police who respond. And guns may be fired at the wrong person! The police may see a young teacher holding a gun and think it is the shooter, or the teacher will be so rattled they will accidentally discharge a weapon and it will harm a student! Both unimaginable situations that no training as proposed can prepare anyone for. Please turn your legislative attention at other ways to address the issue of school shootings, by funding better mental health programs, more consistent training for teachers and students to recognize who may become a school shooter, to help prevent the situation in the first place!

Please to not pass Senate bill 168, a back door way to get guns in schools!

Thank you,

Donna Malone

(written testimony)