

Testimony on Senate Bill 168

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

June 15, 2021

Submitted by: Ellen Monson

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 Ellen Monson and I am a parent of two high school students in Cincinnati.

Testimony

It is dangerous to our children to have armed teachers in schools who have received minimal training. SB 168 creates a formal program to arm teachers across the state of Ohio and would encourage statewide arming of teachers. Teachers are not peace officers and should not be expected to function as such, particularly with so little training. And it is DANGEROUS to everyone in the schools. This poorly thought out plan puts the burden on teachers to do the job of law enforcement. It would be much better to invest in school security by having trained peace officers on site at every building, effective security systems and lockdown procedures etc. But, our legislators don't want to spend money for professional security and instead are trying to push this plan "on the cheap" to arm teachers. It is ridiculous to think that with a few hours of training that teachers will be prepared to respond to high stress, active shooter situations requiring SWAT team level intervention.

The best way to minimize gun violence is to have stricter controls on who has access to firearms. It is tragic that school shootings have become everyday occurrences and the government hasn't been able to come up with common sense gun control regulation.