

**Testimony on Senate Bill 168**  
**Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee**  
**June 15, 2021**

Submitted by:  
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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 Jennifer Weinbrecht and I am a grandparent of four kids who attend school in Chardon school district in Geauga County. You may recall that Chardon has had a school shooting. Some of my co-workers at the time had kids who were there that day, and one employee's daughter was skimmed by a bullet. Friends of another co-worker's son were killed and maimed for life. I certainly understand the desire to have more protection in schools. However, this school shooting happened because a troubled kid lived in a situation where he had easy access to guns. The way to lower the amount of shooting that goes on in our country is to deal with the easy availability of guns. Guns are everywhere and there are minimal safety considerations applied to their sale and acquisition and handling.

The last thing we need is more guns in schools. I am strongly opposed to any attempt to increase the amount of guns in our schools. If we need armed guards in our schools, they should be specially trained peace officers, not teachers and staff. Teachers and regular staff are extremely busy and have enough on their plates. To also encourage them handle armed firearms during the school day is a recipe for disaster. Elementary school, middle school, and high school are targeted in this program. Teachers with loaded guns – will they be walking around with these guns hanging on their belts for kids to see? Is that really the world we want our kids to live in? Will they be hidden in the teacher's desk drawer where kids can find them, but not where they'd be easily available to an adult in a school shooting situation? This makes no sense.

Life is stressful enough in these times, for teachers and for students. Adding more loaded guns to the mix is not wise.

Our legislature should spend its time finding ways to help the people of Ohio, rather than spending so much time looking for ways to pump more guns into every aspect of our lives.

Thank you.