

Opposition Testimony to SB 168
Submitted By Lorrie Levensgood
6/14/2021

Chair Hoagland and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to SB 168.

My name is Lorrie Levensgood. I have taught in Ohio schools for 34 years as an intervention specialist. I am deeply distressed by the possibility that the Ohio Legislature continues to push to put more guns in our schools. I believe that allowing teachers or designated volunteers to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice and would likely further endanger our students and staff. Introducing more guns in schools increases the risk of gun violence. It heightens the possibility of accidents, guns falling into the hands of students, suicides and gun homicides in our schools.

Law enforcement officers receive an average of 730 hours of basic training, including 168 hours of training on weapons, self-defense, and the use of force. But this law expects to pass the bill first and then find out how much training you are going to require of school safety designees...sort of a "surprise" bill! Even some of the most highly trained law enforcement in the country see their ability to shoot accurately decrease significantly when engaged in gunfights with perpetrators. Please stop this bill from going any further to protect our students and staff.

Thank you,
Lorrie Levensgood