

Opposition Testimony on SB 168

Submitted by:
Mike Hubbard
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Chair Hoagland and members of the committee;

Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to SB 168. My name is Mike Hubbard. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio. My wife and I own our home in Clinton, Ohio, a small rural town outside of Canton. I have been a volleyball coach at our local middle school for years. Two of our three daughters are teachers and the other is a school psychologist. They all work for schools in N. E. Ohio.

I am opposed to SB 168. More guns in schools means more shootings. That's why the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation's two largest teacher organizations, oppose having guns in schools. There have already been over 90 incidents reported in the news where a student has gotten access to a gun that was mishandled by school staff. Children should not be in close contact with guns, period. The American Pediatric Society says that the safest home for a child is one without a gun. Likewise, the safest school for a child is a school without guns. If a school must have armed personnel, they should have the extensive School Police training required by CURRENT law. At least that way, parents know the officer knows what to do in a crises, how to de-escalate violence, and how to properly assess whether a child is a deadly risk to others. SB 618 gives us no assurance that the training decided upon (after passage of the law!) will be enough! I don't think my daughters or myself should have to work alongside an armed person who may not be properly trained for this awesome responsibility.

Mike Hubbard
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