

Testimony in Opposition of Senate Bill 168  
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee  
June 15, 2021  
Submitted by Mimi Karon

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. I am a mom and have spent much time in my children's schools as a volunteer. I am grateful that Senator Hoagland understands measures are needed to keep Ohio schools safer from gun violence. I am also pleased that SB 168 is an improvement in previous Ohio bills that simply allow school boards with the ability to determine training requirements for arming school personnel. Unfortunately, SB 168 does not show that it will indeed keep schools safer from gun violence. There is no research in which this legislation is based.

To keep schools safer, we need our laws based on data-driven evidence showing its effectiveness. SB 168 documents no research. Research does however show that people are less safe in the presence of guns, that both teachers and parents unanimously oppose arming teachers (Everytown, Arming Teachers Introduces New Risks Into Schools, May 1, 2019). I would like to see a study showing that SB 168 will help decrease gun violence before this bill moves forward.

Thank you, Senator Hoagland, for making school safety a priority. Please provide us with a legislation that will show it to be effective in doing this. It is an incredibly important issue to every parent, teacher, and student in this state. Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony today.