

Opposition Testimony on SB 168

June 14, 2021

Submitted by: William Koltek

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

My name is William Koltek and I live in the rural community of Louisville, Ohio. I oppose SB 168.

If SB 168 passes, citizens and parents will have no idea how many hours of training would end up being required for School Safety Designees by the State Att’y General. We would just have to trust the State AG but we have been disappointed many times before. In the end, it could end up being a significantly shorter course than what’s in place under current law. That makes me very uneasy.

Also, this bill seems to encourage the use of military veterans for school safety officers. But America is not Afganistan or Vietnam and a military mindset is not appropriate in our schools. There are many non-military things to know before being given life and death authority over a child: de-escalation, child behavior, racial bias, etc. It’s not just about being able to shoot a gun.

It is long past time for our elected officials to consider the welfare of their constituents above the welfare of the firearm industry and the National Rifle Association, whose corruption has recently been the subject of much attention. HB 167 is not a safe solution.

Sincerely,
William Koltek