

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 168
By Connie Rubin

To Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and Committee Members: thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 168.

My name is Connie Rubin. I am a retiree living in North Canton Ohio, whose two daughters graduated from Ohio's public schools. I am strongly opposed to the current SB 168 which seeks to allow school personnel or other civilians to carry loaded weapons in schools. I believe Ohio's weak laws on gun ownership have endangered our children; this law would further lower safeguards and put them children at increased risk.

I understand that SB 168 is different than HB 99 but there are many similarities. By legally creating "School Safety Designees", you will actually encourage more schools to arm adults in their schools. I do appreciate that this proposal would at least include recommendations from the Department of Public Safety and the training would be overseen by OPOTC but in the end, it would be the State Attorney General deciding how much training these "Designees" would get. We voters have no idea if it would be something close to the 730 hours that School Resource Officers currently receive or as little as the 8 hours required for a CCW.

I hope you realize that the two biggest teachers' unions both oppose guns in schools. The federal government's chief law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies also agree with me, and are unanimous in condemning allowing civilians to carry guns in schools. Please vote No on SB 168.

Thank you,
Constance Rubin

