

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 168
By Jen Maddafer

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

My name is Jennifer Maddafer. I am writing this testimony as a private, and very concerned, citizen. Although the proposed SB 168 bill is a slight improvement over HB 99 (at least it would put the training of armed civilians under OPOTC) it would still encourage schools to put more guns in the hands of teachers and other civilians. It would not give parents and voters any idea of how MUCH training these armed personnel would get. That decision apparently gets made later, after the bill has passed and the state has committed 6 million dollars. I'm afraid that once the bill passes, the AG will cut the number of hours of training to appease the gun lobby.

Basically, having more guns in schools would put Ohio children, teachers and parents at risk. There is no evidence that arming teachers reduces school shootings. Even thoroughly trained police often make poor decisions or shoot inaccurately in stressful situations. We cannot expect teachers or civilians with little training to make life and death decisions. Many innocent lives will be lost due to this bill. The emotional trauma for students, staff and the community in these instances will be enormous.

I urge you to vote No on SB 168.

Thank you,

Jennifer Maddafer