

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 168
Submitted by Mike Hubbard

To Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and
Committee Members:

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 strongly opposed to SB 168. While I appreciate that Senator Hoagland has tried to address the issue of training for people who are armed in schools, this bill is too similar to HB 99. It would codify the idea of a bunch of civilians or veterans carrying guns in our schools. 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 Resource Officer training required by current law. This bill does not guarantee to families that the training these "school safety designees" will get approaches anything like what they get under current law. Parents have the right to know if the armed person knows what to do in a crises, how to de-escalate violence, how to safely handle a weapon and can shoot accurately into a crowd of running children. I don't think my daughters or myself should have to work alongside an armed person who is not a police officer.

Mike Hubbard
Clinton, OH