

Opposition Testimony SB 168

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Submitted by Penny Hubbard

10/4/2021

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

My name is Penny Hubbard. I am a resident of Clinton, Ohio which is a rural neighborhood. I am the proud mother of 3 daughters who attended Jackson Local Schools. Two of them are now teachers and one is a school psychologist. They all work in N. E. Ohio. I volunteer in my daughter's classroom. My husband is a volleyball coach at Jackson Middle School. We have spent much of our lives in these school buildings. If anyone has a right to speak up on the dangers associated with this bill, I do!

This bill essentially tries to do the same thing as HB 99, that is, allow civilians (including teachers) to carry loaded guns into schools. Yes, it tries to address the issue of how these armed "School Safety Designees" would be trained but it really gives us no assurances that the training would approach what it is now for SRO's. I am struggling to understand how this is considered a good idea. None of my family members are in favor of carrying a loaded gun into school, with or without training. They do not want to be in close proximity to other staff who may be carrying guns, *especially* if they have had less training than current SRO's. Accidents are certainly going to happen and I fear for my family. Also, we would all be traumatized if one of their students were shot by a teacher or community member or a child who got hold of a teacher's gun. Law enforcement requires extensive weapons training and certification. Teachers are trained to teach. Other civilians should not be carrying guns in our schools either, not even if they are veterans. They are not trained in law enforcement or child behavior experts. Please put a stop to this dangerous bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Hubbard
Clinton, OH