

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony on SB 168
Submitted by Sammie Dannug

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 Sammie Dannug and I am a teacher at Jackson Middle School in Massillon, Oh. I firmly oppose SB 168.

In 2018, I experienced an attempted school shooting that ended with the shooter taking his own life in the school bathroom. My classroom was just 2 doors down from that bathroom. I hid with my students in the classroom for 4 hours until the all clear. A worse tragedy was averted because another student saw the gun and ran to tell a teacher. This is a quiet suburban community, with excellent schools, surrounded by rural areas and I never expected that I would face gun violence at work or in my community.

This bill twists itself in knots trying to make it safer for our children to be around adults carrying guns all day long. It sets up the promise of OPOTC training for "School Safety Designees" but fails to inform us what this "basic firearm training" will be (sounds an awful lot like the eight hours required for concealed carry!) And there's no discussion of what the training will consist of. If you're prepared to take a child's life, you'd better understand child behavior and development, disabilities and other behavioral issues. And you need to understand and practice deescalation of violence or children and teachers will die unnecessarily. This week, in Long Beach, Calif., a School Resource Officer unnecessarily shot an 18 year old girl, who was unarmed, after she'd had an argument with another teen. Physicians have declared the young lady "brain dead".

For years, the NRA has been telling us that "the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." This is clearly not true. In 2018 the Small Arms Survey reported that Americans already owned 46% of the world's civilian owned guns and that number has undoubtedly risen over the past 2 years. Yet we have by far the highest gun death rate of any

developed nation and our gun deaths just keep going up. In Ohio, our gun death rate increased 34% from 2010 to 2019 compared to a 17% increase nationwide. So more guns is not making us safer. This bill will encourage more guns in schools, which places me and my students in danger. Please reject SB 168.

Sincerely,
Sammie Dannug