

Testimony on House Bill 99  
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Submitted by:  
Jennifer L. Carroll

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 99.

As a life-long Ohio resident, a Malone University graduate with a bachelor's degree in education, and a mother of two recent Ohio high school graduates, I am reaching out to express my strong opposition to HB99. While I know many in the Ohio Congress might say HB99 is to keep Ohio's children safer, it will, in fact, do the opposite, as many educators, law enforcement agencies, and other experts have explained. The answer to Ohio's gun violence problem is not more guns, especially not in the hands of teachers, who need to focus on teaching.

Rather, I ask you and others in the Ohio Senate to focus on pursuing evidence-based and, dare I say, common sense intervention that addresses what we know about gun violence in schools and elsewhere. This includes:

- Passing criminal background checks on all gun sales
- Passing red flag laws and safe storage laws
- Adding physical security upgrades
- Developing emergency planning among staff
- Providing access to school mental health professionals

All reasonable, law-abiding Ohio citizens should be able to agree on these things.

Keeping Ohio school children safe most definitely does not include radically reducing the current training requirement for armed teachers. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that an armed teacher must have at least 20 years experience as an active duty peace officer or have completed Ohio Peace Officer Training. HB 99 would gut that training requirement down to only 22 hours.

I believe there is no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools. If HB99 passes we can most certainly expect more accidental shootings to occur, more guns winding up in precarious locations, and, should a real school shooter enter the vicinity, this piece of legislation is going to contribute to the loss of life of the children you are hoping to protect. For the safety of all of Ohio's school children, please reject HB 99 and focus instead on legislation that would prevent school shootings before they occur.

Respectfully,

Jennifer L. Carroll  
Canton, Ohio