

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee.

This letter is written in strong opposition to HB 99. Research by respected scientists, physicians, and experts whose career is to study gun violence all oppose arming teachers because of the simple fact that adding more guns to a child's environment increases his risk of injury. You have been provided copious amounts of research data by others that for some reason you choose to ignore ...WHY?

If the tragic incident in Texas last week didn't prove to you that arming teachers is not a viable option, I have to wonder why you are so close minded. There were all kinds of heavily armed law enforcement personnel wearing tactical gear on that scene who didn't want to engage with a person with an assault style weapon, yet you expect a TEACHER responsible for a classroom of youngsters to confront that same shooter with a revolver. Where is your common sense? Maybe you need to avail yourselves to a day in classrooms of K-12 schools to see how unrealistic arming teachers is.

I know the Buffalo horrific incident wasn't a school setting but there was another example how having a person with a revolver (the store security guard who btw WAS a trained law enforcement officer whose only responsibility was defending the entrance to a grocery store not a classroom full of students and has his weapon at the ready in his holster) is NOT the answer to a shooter.

Responsible legislators should be working to increase school budgets to provide school counselors to be proactive in identifying at risk students and provide needed counseling. Also, bring programs into schools to help students deal with how to manage anger, conflict resolution and bullying.

I implore you to vote NO on HB 99.

Jill Bowman