

Testimony on HB 99

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

May 30, 2022

Submitted by:

Lauren Wantz

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. My name is Lauren Wantz and I am a resident of Ohio.

I have been very disturbed by many things happening in America's education system. This is where poisonous and detrimental ideologies that have the potential to destroy the sanity of the nation start, within the education system, and it is nothing short of menticide. Arming teachers is not the answer because it contributes yet more to a toxic culture that is obviously even extending to our children whose minds do not yet have the ability to protect themselves from radical ideas or misinformation. I do not want teachers to be armed because there have been several eldritch news reports of teachers targeting their minority students and, as I said, promulgating dangerous ideologies. One teacher, believing he was teaching how "symbols change over time," had his students practice sieg heling, and while a Jewish student recorded it the student was then forced to sit by the teacher, essentially being watched. Another teacher had only their African American students go through a simulated slavery experience by making them pick artificial cotton and be in chains. Of course I know not all teachers are like this, and the teachers who are gentle and kind hearted people trying to mold our youth into morally responsible citizens do not *want* to carry guns to school. I'm afraid the only teachers enthusiastic about this bill would be those of the former category. This puts our children in yet more danger, particularly children of any marginalized community. It is often said by those against gun sense laws that this is not the problem of firearms, but of a disturbed zeitgeist, and I tell you now this disturbed zeitgeist is called white supremacy, and when it is armed is nothing but a Nazi militia. I do not want that to be made of teachers some of whom are already subjecting vulnerable minds to acts of cruelty. Students already have to live in a world where they can't trust other students, and now with Uvalde, adults, I do not find it prudent to add teachers to this bevy of people our youth, who is always supposed to be protected regardless of race, belief or sexual orientation, at all costs, can't trust in anymore. I hate to see us fail our children like this, for if we will not even protect our children, who will we protect at all? Thank you for considering my views.