

Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Opposition Testimony HB 99
Submitted by:
Patricia Krummrich

Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member Thomas, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. My name is Pat Krummrich and I strongly oppose HB 99.

One of my biggest objections to this bill is its frightening lack of transparency. When I bought my home in Jackson Township, I searched carefully among the neighboring communities for the best schools before I purchased my home. This bill claims to add transparency but instead it would give districts a way to gaslight parents. A single sentence in something like the school newsletter saying “The district has authorized one or more persons to go armed in its schools” is all districts would have to do. Parents will have no chance to find out how many people are carrying guns around their children and how much (OR HOW LITTLE) training they have had. Ohioans have made their choice clear. When a very similar bill, SB 317, was proposed in previous years, Ohioans submitted more than 250 testimonies in opposition. The total testimonies for the Proponents? Two, both by paid gun lobbyists. Your citizens are trying to tell you something! The requirement of 28 hours of training in HB 99 is not a significant improvement. It does not transform this into a safe standard for teachers or school staff to be carrying guns in schools.

I am a bereaved parent, having lost my beautiful daughter when she was 15. This is a journey you do not want to put someone through. Yet if you pass this bill, you will likely do just that.

I am also a retired Pediatric Speech Pathologist from Akron Children’s, a teacher and high school volleyball coach. I live in the Jackson Local School District (a suburban and rural area) where our community endured the trauma of a student planning a school shooting and then shooting himself in the school bathroom.

According to the **The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** a gun in the home is 43 times more likely to be used to kill a friend or family member than an intruder. Peer reviewed research by Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University found that for every time a gun in the home was used in a self-defense or legally justifiable shooting, there were four unintentional shootings, seven criminal assaults or homicides, and 11 attempted or completed suicides (1). So until there is evidence to the contrary, we must assume that having a gun in the school makes it much more likely that the weapon will result in an accidental shooting, suicide or even homicide, rather than stopping an intruding school shooter. No longer can parents try to safeguard their child from gun death or injury by keeping guns out of their home, because the bulk of their child's school day could be spent a few feet away from a loaded gun, in the hands of an adult with as little as 2 hours of actual shooting range practice (I won't even let my grandchild ride in a car with a driver who has only had 2 hours time behind the wheel)! And for the teen who is struggling with thoughts of suicide, revenge or fame, no need to try to figure out where to get a gun, they can just get it at school!

While this bill would give school districts the option to arm school staff and any other person with ridiculously little firearm training, School Peace Officers would continue to be (rightly) required to have 700+ hours of training or years of experience. I can understand that some districts may choose to have a well-trained school peace officer as part of their safety plan. We do at Jackson Local. At least under current law, we know that if an adult is armed in the school, they have had extensive weapons and crisis response training. Why would anyone believe that a math teacher, coach or custodian would magically be better equipped than a police officer to handle a deadly weapon and therefore require less training?

How is a teacher with (usually) a handgun going to take out a suicidal 18 year old in full bullet proof tactical gear, wielding an AR-15 and hundreds of rounds of ammunition? Get rid of the automatic weapons of

war and large capacity magazines! Instead we will give teachers or other community members a smattering of training and then put them in close daily contact with our children.

Stop pandering to the Gun industry and gun lobby and listen to Ohioans, Reject HB 99.

Thank you,
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1. Kellermann AL, Somes G, Rivara FP, Lee RK, Banton JG. Injuries and deaths due to firearms in the home. *J Trauma*. 1998 Aug;45(2):263-7. doi: 10.1097/00005373-199808000-00010. PMID: 9715182. Author affiliation: Center for Injury Control, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.