

05/31/22

HB99

Submitted by Rebecca Surendorff

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

I am a life long Ohio resident and mother of 4 school aged kids. I am writing in opposition to HB 99.

First, it appears hasty to experiment with arming teachers all over our state with training requirements that are less than a driver's training course.

The grade school I attended, St. Jude in Green Township, Cincinnati had 3 child sex abusers working or residing there while I was a student (Albrecht, Drew, Kiffmeyer). Ohio has holes in its laws which allowed Drew be a teacher and priest for 3 decades in 3 Ohio counties despite multiple investigations. Drew went on to run my children's large Ohio parochial school in 2018-19. He was convicted of 9 counts of child rape in 2021. Have you considered that our lax system for identifying child sexual predators coupled with an easy path to being armed in school could have devastating consequences?

Can you imagine an abuser's ability to intimidate children when lawfully armed in the school?

I ask the committee to consider the Supreme Court case Castle Rock v. Gonzales. The police do not have the legal duty to protect. Would armed teachers have a duty to protect?

I implore the committee to spend a weekend night shift at Cincinnati's University and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Please talk to the medical workers and observe first-hand what it happening in our state.

Will teachers armed with handguns face a fair fight against a gunman with AR-15 style rifle, vest and hundreds of rounds?

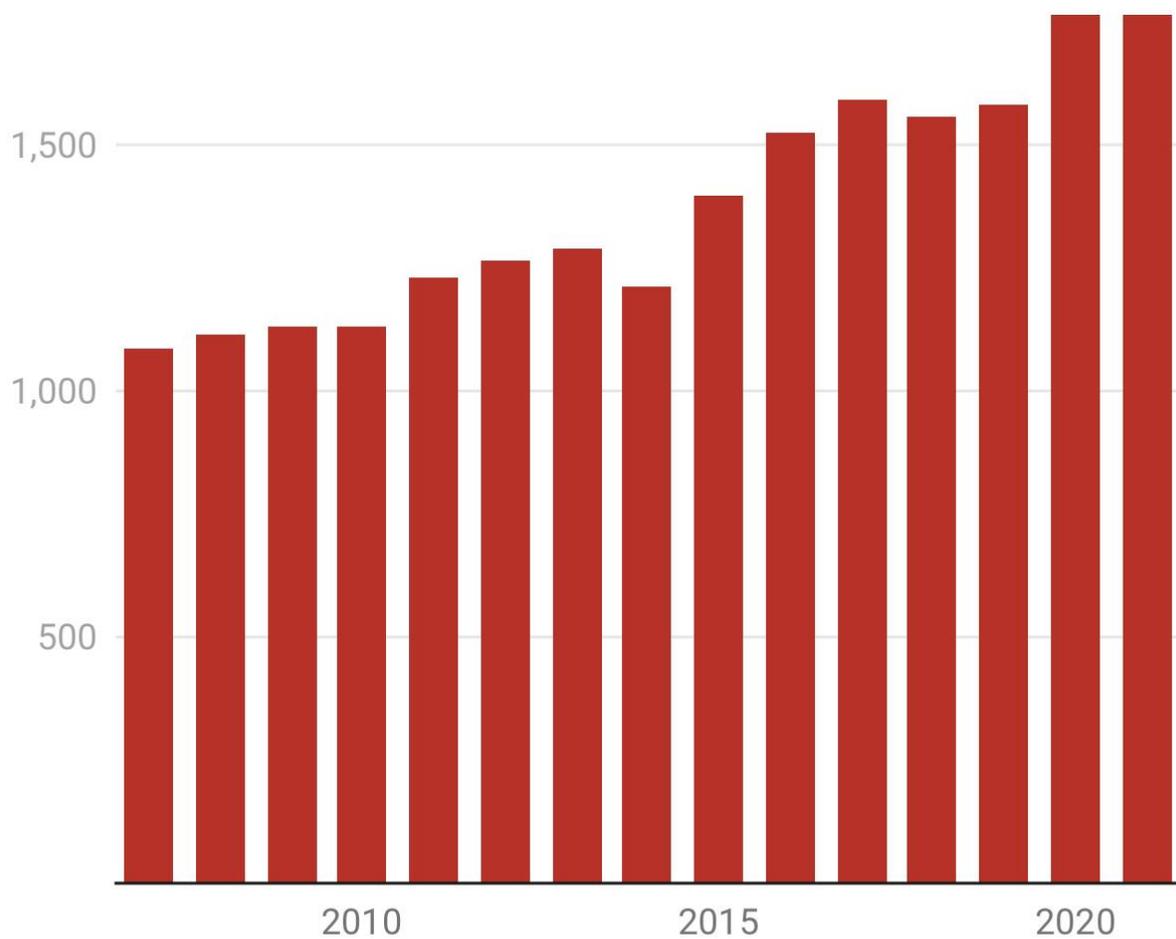
Who would be liable for an accidental shooting in a school?

There are dozens of countries where school massacres do not occur. Why have they become common in the United States? Other countries have video games and mentally ill citizens, yet their schools are safe.

My oldest daughter, a junior in high school, came home the day of the Uvalde shooting and scooped her 9 year old sister into her arms. She was sobbing that anyone could murder so many children nearly the age of her sister. She continued to follow the story and was dismayed to realize that a young man that could not buy beer legally could buy that weapon and hundreds of rounds.

We need a comprehensive approach to gun violence in Ohio. I ask the committee to oppose HB99.

Firearm deaths in Ohio



Data for 2021 is preliminary

Chart: Jake Zuckerman • Source: [Ohio Department of Health](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)