



VETERANS AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 05-29-2022

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Organization Representing: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifying on Bill Number: H.B. 99

Testimony: \_\_\_\_\_ Verbal  Written \_\_\_\_\_ Both

Testifying As: \_\_\_\_\_ Proponent  Opponent \_\_\_\_\_ Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website

Testimony on House Bill 99  
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Submitted by:  
Sammy Saber

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.

I am very concerned about HB 99 and am in strong opposition. I understand that the goal of HB99 is to keep Ohio's children safer, but in fact, it will do the opposite. The research is clear that bringing guns into classrooms will make children less safe. Firearms are now the leading cause of death for America's children and teens. Simply having access to a gun increases the risk of suicide by three times and homicide by two times. The less children are exposed to guns, the safer they will be. If we really want to keep students safe, we must listen to the research: pass criminal background checks on all gun sales, pass red flag laws and safe storage laws, add physical security upgrades, develop emergency planning among staff, and provide access to school mental health professionals.<sup>1</sup>

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. 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.

I know this is some standard template expressing opposition to a bill. I get it. You've looked through and read lots of these. But please, think about what you're doing. I'm a father of two young kids. What happened in Uvalde, Texas is my worst nightmare. Arming teachers wouldn't have prevented what happened. There was an armed guard on the scene who was ineffective. I'm begging you. Don't do this. This will not make my kids safer.

Respectfully,

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<sup>1</sup><https://everytownresearch.org/reports/keeping-our-schools-safe-a-plan-to-stop-mass-shootings-and-end-all-gun-violence-in-american-schools/>

Sammy Saber