

Testimony on House Bill 99  
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Submitted by:  
Jennifer Simcic

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. If guns made us safer, the U.S. would be the safest country in the world. There is **no** example of an armed teacher stopping a shooter in a school setting. Yet there are many examples of **highly-trained law-enforcement professionals not being able to stop a shooter** — look no further than the most-recent mass shootings in Uvalde and Buffalo. How is a minimally-trained teacher supposed to do better, especially when they are simultaneously responsible for protecting a classroom full of frightened students? It makes no sense.

The bill has no requirement for safe storage of a firearm. This, combined with radically reducing the current training requirement for armed teachers, is simply a gun accident waiting to happen. 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 737 hours of Ohio Peace Officer Training. HB 99 would gut that training requirement down to only 22 hours! My son had to spend more hours behind the wheel in order to get his driver's license.

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, rather than a bill that injects more guns into an already fraught situation, and puts more guns in our classrooms and within student's reach. 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>

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/>