

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the committee, I wish to submit testimony in opposition to HB99 which would reduce the training requirement for arming teachers in schools.

I am so disappointed with the bills being introduced in the Ohio legislature related to gun safety. Voters are asking for something to be done about gun violence and instead our legislature passed Stand Your Ground and Permitless carry, both of which have been proven to result in more deaths in other states that have passed them.

And now the Ohio legislature is determined to get more guns in schools. Teachers and law-enforcement oppose this bill because they know how dangerous it is. Friends of mine who are teachers have expressed to me how unrealistic it is to expect teachers to keep a gun away from students in a classroom setting. They did not sign up to be sharp-shooters. We are already asking so much of our teachers, we can't expect them to take on this responsibility too. The risks associated with a gun falling into the hands of a student are much more terrifying (and much more likely to happen) than a teacher being able to take action in the case of an active shooter. The shooting in Uvalde Texas shows that more guns are not the answer – they had an SRO at the school, they had many police officers on site quickly and it still didn't stop the carnage. "More guns" is NOT the answer. If it was, then the United States would be the safest county in the developed world. Instead, we are 25 times more likely to die from a gun in the United States than in any other developed nation.

More people will die in Ohio if HB99 is passed. I urge you not to pass this bill.

Tara Talgar

Voter from Dublin, Ohio with three children in school