Testimony on House Bill 99

House Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by: Sarah Krieg

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 99.

My name is Sarah Krieg, and I am an Ohio resident and a voter. I am also a full time mom. I want to express my strong opposition to HB 99. This bill would enable educators to carry loaded guns in schools without completing the necessary training currently required by Ohio law. Under the exemption created by HB 99, school districts could employ armed personnel with as little as 8 hours of training - 6 of which could be completed online - or with no training at all, if the firearm is not concealed when carried.

A brief Google search is all that is required to discover that the potential for danger and accidents grows exponentially when more guns are introduced into a school environment. If educators are not properly trained, the outcome could be disastrous. Extensive training is imperative where firearms are concerned.

My only daughter is in kindergarten this year. I have spent countless hours worrying about her contracting Covid-19 at school. So you can imagine that I would feel even more worried, and angry, if teachers in her school were armed with little to no training. Parents, families, and educators have enough to worry about right now. We do not need or want more guns on school campuses. Facts and statistics show that their presence does not actually make anyone safer.

Please vote against HB 99. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Krieg