

Ohio Teachers Have Easier Access to Guns

By: Emma Herzog

Recently, the governor of Ohio has made the accessibility to guns much easier to obtain for teachers. Mike Dewine signed this bill on June 13, 2022 - a mere three months ago. Though the intentions may be to prevent danger with the presence of a



school shooter, many wanted Dewine to veto this bill. “Both the Ohio Federation of Teachers and Ohio Education Association had urged DeWine to veto the bill, saying it is ‘dangerous and irresponsible’ to put more guns in schools in the hands of people who aren’t adequately trained” (npr.org). At this point I want to note that Oak Hills High School has not taken up any gun policies, so this article is not targeted toward our school whatsoever.

You may be thinking: teachers ARE trained before they can handle this weapon. Though this may be true, the training process is not nearly as in-depth as it once was, and this idea frightens many in the state of Ohio. According to the *New York Times*, “A new law requires educators and other school staff members who want to carry a weapon to undergo no more than 24 hours of training - compared with more than 700 hours previously.” This 676 hour difference is completely insane statistically, but the opinions are to be left in the eyes of the beholder.

Another big problem that presents itself is the ability for parents and locals to pose their opinions on the topic. Unfortunately, the decision to allow guns in Ohio schools hears hardly any voice from these groups. The altercations mainly appear in private schools for obvious reasons, but there is no doubt that Ohio schools across the board will be impacted... “This sets the stage for private, for-profit companies to come in and influence the board into using their standards and using their companies to train school staff members - all without the input of parents and local law enforcement...” (cleveland.com).

According to “worldpopulationreview.com”, the state of Ohio has had 55 school shooting incidents since the year 1970-present, making it the 6th highest out of the 50 states. With this being said, it is completely understandable why state and local authorities would want to try to do something to prevent these numbers from increasing. Furthermore, concern is definitely heightened when the training process for teachers to obtain guns is extremely limited with the new Ohio bill.

This highly controversial topic is one that continues to be explored by various state, local, and national authorities. Though there is not one clear answer right now, there is no doubt that the safety of children in school is always first in line.