

If a district would like to pursue that lower percentage mandate, they could do so by simply passing policy that would allow those that are not otherwise precluded from possessing a weapon to carry, excluding students. This policy could limit carry to areas where that individual is otherwise allowed to be, again excluding students.

By definition, this would make the school less of a soft target (no longer a gun free zone). Statistically, this would make the school less likely to be attacked. Now I understand that not everyone will like that policy, and that is why it is a local decision. However, short of that action, it is of uttermost importance that local districts fortify their schools, because it is the only line of defense for our children.

I'm not sure if the percentages in this bill are right and I am open to changing or capping them, but I believe the policy is solid.

I'm sure you will hear from some in opposition that they are already providing an adequate amount of resources for school security. They will say that school safety is important to them. To that I would say, prove it.

Several years ago, I was told that you could tell ones' priorities simply with two pieces of information, their day planner and their checkbook. (For all of you young people, that might be your Instagram page and your Apple Pay account 😊) If we look at a schools spending and the amount of time spent on school security would we believe that school safety is more important than basketball, football, or all sports combined. Where would it fall on the priority list?

It is not my goal to have districts called on the carpet based on their apparent priorities based on their spending, but rather I'm attempting to emphasize the importance of school safety from the state's perspective and then allow the schools to decide how best to spend that portion of state aid money.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I'm happy to work with the committee to fine tune the amount of the school security mandate, but lets amend this bill if needed and send this important policy to the floor with a Do-Pass recommendation. I'll be happy to attempt to answer any questions that you may have.