



Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

October 13, 2015

To the Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Rick Jones - Committee Chair
Senator Tonya Schuitmaker - Vice Chair
Senator Tory Rocca
Senator Patrick Colbeck
Senator Steven M. Bieda - Minority Committee Chair

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 442 which would allow concealed carry in currently gun-free zones including schools, day care centers, places of worship, as well as dorms and classrooms at universities and community colleges.

The IHM Sisters, a congregation of 335 vowed Catholic women religious and 122 Associates, have long advocated for the need to nurture a reconciling and healing community and to live and work non-violently for a world of peace and justice. It is unthinkable that allowing guns in schools, churches and other public places will provide a safer, more peaceful environment.

Prior to my current role as president of the IHM congregation, I spent almost four decades in education. As a teacher, building administrator and superintendent of schools, I place a high priority on the safety of our children. Putting more guns into the schools is not the answer.

While we continue to pray for the families and friends of the victims of the most recent campus shooting in Oregon, we must also back up our prayers with responsible action. Please oppose Senate Bill 442.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Herb, IHM – President
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
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