

Chairman William P. Coley, II, Vice Chair Matt Huffman, Ranking Member Hearcel F. Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testify today. My name is Tony D'Ambrosio. I live in Cincinnati and am an active registered voter. I'm also the father of three boys; one entering college this fall, one in high school and the youngest in middle school. They have all experienced active shooter drills and are acutely aware of the threat of gun violence on school campuses. I do not think this legislation will increase their safety at school and strongly oppose OH SB317.

In researching the topic, I have found that teachers and school safety experts oppose allowing guns in schools. The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation's two largest teachers' organizations, oppose allowing guns in schools. The federal government's chief legal, law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies all agree that allowing civilians to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice. In reviewing information regarding firearms training, I have discovered that law enforcement officers receive an average of 840 hours of basic training, including 168 hours of training on weapons, self-defense, and the use of force. However, in states with laws aimed at arming school personnel, school staff receive significantly less or no training. Even some of the most highly trained law enforcement in the country, the New York City Police Department, see their ability to shoot accurately decrease significantly when engaged in gunfights with perpetrators. This leads me to the conclusion that arming educators with minimal training and experience is inappropriate, dangerous, and will not lead to the desired outcome of reduced gun violence in schools.

As with many issues, primary prevention is often the best approach to mitigating unwanted outcomes. We must focus on proven effective approaches that address the issue on multiple fronts and intervene before gun violence occurs in schools.

- Background checks on all gun sales
- Extreme Risk laws
- Secure gun storage laws
- Raising the age to purchase semiautomatic firearms to 21
- Implementing physical security upgrades
- Investing in counselors
- Threat assessment programs

These are just a few ways in which to address gun violence on school campuses.

Educators have more than enough on their plates. Adding the responsibility of possessing, safely managing, and potentially discharging a firearm in a highly charged situation is an undue burden. Not to mention the possibility of an accidental discharge, theft, improper use, or mistakenly being identified as an active shooter by law enforcement, if that situation arises. Arming teachers with little to no training is not the right solution to preventing gun violence in schools. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this dangerous bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tony D'Ambrosio