

Monday, July 20, 2020

Dear Senator Bill Coley and committee members,

My name is Nathalina Schloneger and I am a teacher at a public elementary school. I am writing as a concerned citizen and oppose SB 317. This is a very dangerous bill and I urge you all to please VOTE NO on 317.

There is absolutely no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools. SB 317 would worsen an already-dangerous situation by gutting the training Ohio law currently requires and allowing teachers to carry guns in schools without extensive safety training.

Arming teachers introduces new risks into schools.

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.

The focus on arming school employees ignores the risks and consequences of bringing more guns onto school grounds. Introducing more guns in schools increases the risk of gun violence. Already, there have been numerous incidents where a gun has been discharged by staff on school grounds. There have also been incidents where guns carried into schools were misplaced or stolen and later found in the hands of students.

Schools face new liability when they arm teachers. When several districts in Kansas sought to arm teachers, the insurance companies informed them that they would not insure such a dangerous practice. In other instances, liability insurance providers have declined coverage to these schools while others have increased annual premiums, stretching already tight budgets.

The gun lobby uses fear of active shooter situations to justify these policies, but arming civilians is not an effective way to stop an active shooter.

There is absolutely no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools. This is a very dangerous bill and I urge you all to please VOTE NO on 317.

**Sincerely,
Nathalina Schloneger**