

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Betsy Mitchell

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to SB 317.

As a competition shooter, collector of firearms, and gun safety trainer for and a Science Educator for over 30 years for public school and higher education teachers, I know that HB 317 is dangerous and naive.

The profile of a teacher at any level of education does not match that of someone who has the mindset of being able to defend a classroom in a crisis situation. There is 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.

Those who believe they can, without rigorous training, are naive. They can cause more harm without understanding the penetration power of a bullet, how to clear a jam, and have the wherewithal to aim when under dire stress. With one misguided bullet they can shoot multiple students.

This bill cannot be presented at a worse time with the insecurities of how the COVID virus will affect the learning and safe environment of a classroom. Adding inexperienced, untrained, and novice shooters into the classroom increases the risk of danger, stress, and heartache.

SB 317 is dangerous to the health and safety of our students and it is irresponsible for it to be even considered let alone voted on. Please vote against SB317. Thank you.

Betsy Mitchell