

Dear Senator Coley,

I am writing in regard to SB 317. I, Lorrie Levengood, have taught in Ohio schools for 34 years as an intervention specialist. I am deeply distressed by the possibility that the senate might drastically reduce safety training requirements for teachers who carry loaded handguns inside elementary, middle and high schools.

I believe that allowing teachers or other civilians to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice and would likely further endanger our students and staff. Introducing more guns in schools increases the risk of gun violence. Guns in the hands of untrained individuals heightens the possibility of accidents, guns falling into the hands of students, and more gun incidents in our schools.

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. But 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, see their ability to shoot accurately decrease significantly when engaged in gunfights with perpetrators.

Please stop this bill from going any further to protect our students and staff.

Thank you,  
Lorrie Levengood