

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Katie Catania

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.

I am submitting testimony to you as a concerned voter and Special Needs Preschool Teacher. While I am always afraid of the day I may have to protect my students, my 3, 4 and 5 year old babies, some with moderate to severe special needs, from a shooting, being armed is not the way it should be done. There has to be a way to protect all children in schools without introducing more guns. Especially, by putting that responsibility into the hands of teachers. That is not why we went to school! That is not why we are there! We were trained to help, educate and love our students, not to be a security force or police officers.

If, God forbid, I had to defend my students and ended up shooting someone, I know my life as I know it now, would be over. I would not be able to return to my classroom, I would not be able to continue teaching. It would be something that I don't know I could recover from, the weight of a human life. That is why I DID NOT BECOME A POLICE OFFICER OR A MEMBER OF THE ARMED SERVICES.

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.

I ask you to please, please, listen to the people you are offering the guns to, who are saying we don't want them! We do not want to carry guns. Please vote no on SB 317. There has to be a better way.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,
Katie Catania