

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Samantha Dannug

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. My name is Samantha Dannug and I am a registered voter in Summit County. Additionally, I am a middle school teacher for a school in Stark County. My mother volunteers for the group Moms Demand Action which is how I became aware of all of the details within SB 317.

I am not inherently against guns but do not own a gun and have never shot one before. I do not like the idea of having a gun around my middle school students and would be hesitant to use it, even in an emergency situation, because I would never forgive myself if I hit the wrong target or shot an innocent person. In order to be confident in my shooting abilities, I would need lots of training and practice, which I am frankly uninterested in obtaining.

I worry that other teachers would be in the same boat as me but that some of them may not have the same worries I have. Arming teachers with little training is an unnecessary risk in an already risky school environment. Teachers that do not know how to use a gun (or ones that think they do but actually don't) would be more dangerous than having no guns in the school other than with an SRO. I worry for the safety of my students, my coworkers, and myself when I think of unprepared teachers being armed in a school.

I already think that there should be more laws regarding safe storage of guns at home as too many students who live near me and the district I teach in have had access to their parents' guns. I'd hate for there to be more guns that are accessible, used inappropriately, or not locked up at home due not to choice but to teachers who don't know any better and are armed anyway.

I truly hope you think about the implications of this bill and vote against it. Thank you.

Samantha Dannug