

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Kathryn Pack

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 writing to you today to express my opinion and concern about SB 317. I am an Ohio resident, voter, mother, and school district employee. I am absolutely not in support of teachers or school staff members carrying weapons on school grounds.

This would make me feel less safe rather than more safe. The focus on arming school employees ignores the risks and consequences of bringing guns onto school grounds. Introducing 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.

I understand that there is current state law that allows teachers and staff to carry weapons on a campus with certain training. SB 317 would reduce the training requirements for teachers. How in the world is that a better plan?

We do not need exemptions used as an effort to increase weapon usage. We need educators to be educators. I do not want the gun lobby telling me that I need to be afraid and therefore purchase more guns. Allowing this to happen within the walls of our schools, where children and educators come to learn, share, feel safe and feel loved, is what is terrifying to me.

I urge you to vote against SB 317.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Pack