

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Shelley Gabel

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 a mother of three children in New Albany, OH. My children are all in their twenties now and went through their entire school career in the New Albany - Plain Local school district. I am extremely opposed to SB 317 which would drastically reduce safety training requirements for teachers and other school personnel who carry loaded handguns inside schools.

Introducing more guns in schools increases the risk of gun violence. The American Federation of Teachers and the NEA both oppose allowing guns in schools. There is no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools, and SB 317 would worsen an already-dangerous situation.

I am not opposed to gun ownership, and have supported each of my children as they wrestle with the decision to own, or not own, a gun. My message to my children, and to every legislator who is making these very important decisions, with ever-increasing numbers of firearms in circulation, is that we have to prioritize SAFETY as we progress in a world with record numbers of guns in circulation. As you might guess, I am extremely opposed to aggressive actions to promote firearms which will result in more violence, not less. Why would we not want the highest level of training for anyone carrying a loaded weapon in a school?

I hope you recognize the widespread opposition to this bill in Ohio, and I urge you to vote no on SB 317.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Gabel

