

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Lauren Wantz

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 believe senate bill 317 is reactionary and dangerous, and will also create a dystopian, Orwellian environment for students that could underlie the creation of a totalitarian society. We cannot meet violence with violence. Ultraism only breeds more ultraism, and this is a terrifying landscape for America that I believe has been culminating for a while and which this bill will only exacerbate. Most teachers do not wish to be armed. This is a responsibility for people already overburdened and underpaid, and that they are only required to do eight hours out of the eight hundred forty requisite for professionals who use guns as part of their jobs I believe is not only legally unjustifiable, I also believe if we include teachers as a part of a militia this will only open the road for more militias, all undertrained, without legality. A teacher with a gun has already opened fire on students four years ago. America is on a dark and dangerous road that could lead to the destruction of our relatively young democracy. I do not want to make anything into law that could contribute to this downfall, making America, already flirting with dystopia, go over the line.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Wantz