

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Sarah Turner

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 as an Ohio resident and voter. I have grave concerns about SB 317. This bill would allow teachers and other adults to carry loaded firearms in schools without any training. Any local school board could bypass the training requirements currently in place and bring them down to a very short training or none at all.

This plan is dangerous. It puts students in elementary, middle, and high schools at risk, as well as school staff and volunteers. It does not reduce the risk of gun violence in schools. In fact, it increases it. An untrained person with a loaded firearm could easily make a mistake with tragic consequences.

As a stepmom and auntie, I care about young people and want them to thrive in school. They should feel safe and be safe where they learn. Neither they nor the adults who care about them should have to worry about them getting hurt by an armed teacher with no firearms training.

Please listen to the parents, teachers, and firearm safety experts who are telling you how dangerous this bill is for Ohio residents. We don't want untrained, armed teachers in schools. Please vote no on SB 317.

Thank you.

Sarah Turner