

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Cassandra Freeland

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 317, which would allow teachers to carry loaded guns in Ohio elementary, middle, and high schools without completing the safety training required by current Ohio law.

I spent five years working in a K-8 school environment and arming teachers is the wrong approach. Teachers have enough going on during their workday with instruction, duties, and monitoring student activities. They do not need to be tasked with keeping track of a firearm on top of other duties, nor is it safe to have firearms at school.

Under current state law, all armed school employees—including teachers, security guards, and special police—must either complete an approved basic peace officer training course or have completed 20 years of active duty as a peace officer. But SB 317 would exempt teachers from this requirement. This bill is an end-run around the judiciary at best, as it is a response to the 12th District Court of Appeals decision about the Madison Local School District.

Cassandra Freeland