



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 8/30/2020

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Organization Representing: self

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 317

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

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Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Submitted by:
Andrea R. Yagoda

Chairman, Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig and Members of the Committee: Thank you for allowing me to participate in this hearing today on SB 317. I am a private citizen and a resident of Ohio for the last 41 years, concerned about the safety of our children and how this bill affects the same. My name is Andrea Yagoda and I presently hold a conceal carry permit. I have had a permit since the early inception of the law providing for conceal carry permits and it saddens me that this Committee is considering a bill that would permit "volunteer" to be armed with no training in our schools. I understand that if the firearm is to be concealed some training would be required but HB 178 seeks to allow Permitless Conceal Carry with no training. If passed, "volunteers" with no training could be armed at our schools. I obtained my permit as a result of what turned out to be a credible threat against my life. A client and I were threatened. No one, including myself, took it seriously until my client was shot and killed by the person making the threat. After that, threats and conduct, made in my line of work, which appeared threatening to me were taken seriously. The woman who carried out the threat went to prison. I appeared, on my own behalf and on behalf of the victim's family to oppose release at every parole hearing. When release was imminent I sought my conceal carry permit to protect myself, my family and my home. Up until that time I had no experience with firearms of any kind but here I was a 50-year old woman preparing to defend herself with a firearm, if

necessary. Although I am not a teacher, I understand the importance of training. If not required to obtain training, I would have purchased a firearm and carried it with me. I would have told myself that I would get training and go to the shooting range to learn about my gun and to properly shoot it. But I know, even now, that life and work would have gotten in the way and the training and practice would not have happened as I would not have found the time.

The mandatory education and training were invaluable to me - not just to learn about the safety in handling a firearm but to build my confidence in the use of one.

Did I know that you should never point a gun at anyone? Yes. Did I know that in transferring a gun you lower the weapon towards the ground? Yes. But without the training would I have thought about that when handling the gun? No. After the training I did not have to think about it, it was automatic for me.

Did I know that if a firearm was fired with the safety on, normally it would not fire? Yes. But did I know that if fired with the safety on and then the safety taken off it could fire? No. I learned that in my mandatory training.

Did I know that a bullet discharged from a revolver could travel for a mile or greater? Absolutely not. Never even really thought about it until my mandatory training/education. I am pretty confident that I am not the only one. We hear stories about people celebrating by shooting guns in the air and falling blocks away hitting an innocent bystander. Obviously, they were not thinking about it either. It is common sense that in homes with children firearms should be stored securely where children do not have access but we have learned that common

sense does not always prevail. I would hope that at age 50 I was more mature than those my junior and had more common sense than someone and yet these were things I did not contemplate. Yet this legislative body is considering putting a firearm in the hands of those with the responsibility to teach our children, who like me never had never touched a gun let alone shoot one.

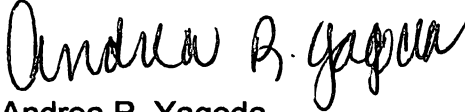
My conceal carry education/training planted a seed. I cultivated that seed by continuing to practice safety and practice the handling and shooting of my weapons at a range. I learned about my guns and how to use them. As a result, the training built up my confidence and skills. That would not have been the case without the mandatory training/education prescribed. I obtained my permit to protect myself. Without confidence that would not have been accomplished. In actuality, without that seed, far from being able to protect myself and my loved ones from harm, I would have been a danger to myself and others. A person lacking confidence in the handling of a firearm is a walking time bomb.

Yet, eight (8) or even twenty four (24) hours of training would be inadequate for me to act in an emergency situation like an attack on a school. To avoid the taking of innocent lives one may not just react one must be educated in how to approach a live active shooter situation. These "volunteers" are being asked to act like a security officer or a swat officer charged with the responsibility of protecting our children against an attack. A security officer by any other name (ie, volunteer), is still a security officer. A "volunteer" is presumably charged with the same responsibility as those hired to protect and therefore should be required to have the same level of training. While I agree that perhaps the physical fitness

required in the basic peace officer training, may not be applicable, the skill assessment and written exam and the many hours of training should apply. After all we are dealing with an environment filled with children. What could possibly be the rationale for this Bill? When will this legislative body put the safety of us all before the demands of the gun toting base?

As a citizen, and voting constituent I ask this committee to vote no on this bill.

Thank you.


Andrea R. Yagoda