

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Deborah Thompson

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 an Ohio resident, voter and educator of more than thirty years and a member of Moms Demand Action. SB317 is a grandstanding attempt to woo a very limited constituency. The vast majority of Ohioans want logical gun reform based on facts and research. Training is paramount for firearm safety. To expect educators to secure environments including weapons, both every day and in emergencies, is ludicrous. Does the teacher first lock the door, move students or grab a gun that has been locked up? How does he or she determine who is shooting? Does the teacher shoot a student known to him or her? Does another staff member get shot because they have a weapon? Even the most experienced police officers can have difficulty with split second decisions and reactions, after years of training and professional support. To expect this of school staff is unacceptable, more dangerous than protective.

Deborah Thompson