

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Barbara Davidson

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 appreciate having this opportunity to speak to you regarding SB 317. My name is Barbara Davidson and I am a life-long resident of Ohio. I am a proud graduate of Ohio public schools, my children attended Ohio public schools, and my 2 year-old granddaughter will attend Ohio schools when she is older. More than that, though, after graduating from Ohio State University I spent my career teaching and working in Ohio public and independent schools. Although I am retired now, my daughter is a current Ohio Kindergarten teacher and I still care very much about the sound foundation that Ohio public schools offer to all students. I believe that Ohio's future depends on strong public schools.

I am extremely dismayed at the prospect afforded to us by SB 317. I know of no teacher who wants to carry a loaded weapon in school. I know of no teacher who wants to see his or her colleagues do the same. While teachers DO want to protect their students (and we have ample evidence that they will do so at their own peril, with Columbine and Sandy Hook representing only two such incidences), teachers having loaded guns in school with minimal training will only make possible future active shooter situations more dangerous, not less. I cannot think of any situation where teachers with loaded guns and little training would help students be safer.

SB 317 is wrong for Ohio teachers and wrong for Ohio students. And especially now, when there is so much that Ohio teachers, students, families, and residents need in order to keep moving forward, SB 317 feels like a tremendously unwelcome, poorly planned, and totally unwarranted proposition.

Please reject SB 317.

Thank you.

Barbara Davidson