

Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Opposition Testimony SB 317

Senator Bill Coley and Committee,

I am a lifelong Republican, father of 2, business executive (recently retired from Timken Corporation) and 23 year resident of Ohio. With all due respect, SB 317 is the dumbest idea I have seen in my 68 years. And possible amendments introduced at your last committee hearing, do not fix the main problem with this bill: that there will be no fixed minimum standards for training school personnel who carry guns in schools. If I had made decisions this bad when I was in business, I would not have had my job long, I can tell you that.

I have supported my school system through countless volunteer activities and also paid the taxes that you no doubt supported as a legislator. You are on the record as a strong supporter of education funding. A large portion of my money and activities were intended as support for qualified teachers. Yet, SB 317 does the exact opposite by allowing untrained individuals to act as policemen in our schools. And it makes it difficult for teachers to focus on their real job: teaching.

I hope you have been blessed with children and grandchildren. If so, let me ask you a question: Would you want your children and grandchildren educated by someone with no training? Most reasonable people would answer "No" to that question. Assuming you are reasonable, then why on earth would you want your family members in a classroom with a gun owner who has no training?

I am a strong supporter of keeping our children safe but this bill goes in the opposite direction. During an incident at a school you want trained individuals responding who are capable of handling themselves in a critical situation. Teachers, coaches and custodians are people too, each with their own stressors and biases in life. Expecting them to make fair, accurate and safe split second decisions about when to shoot someone is about as dumb as trusting that they will actually be able to hit their target (possibly one of their own students) in the stress of the moment. It is only going to result in more dead students. On top of that, you want to have teachers do this without adequate training? Every family in Ohio, regardless of what school district they live in, should be able to trust that IF there are going to be armed personnel in schools, they should be fully trained peace officers, not an untrained teacher or some other untrained adult from the community.

Please spend your time and energies responding to the needs of Ohioans with well thought through school safety legislation. Vote No on SB 317.

Very seriously and sincerely,
Ken Krummrich