

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Stephanie Pestello

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 a lifelong Ohio resident, except for four years when I attended college, and voter. My profession has been as a lawyer in the public sector and now I am retired but still volunteer my time with Legal Aid of Columbus.

SB 317 would allow teachers to carry loaded guns in Ohio elementary, middle and high schools without completing the safety training required by current Ohio law. Under current state law, all armed school employees must either complete an approved 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.

I strongly oppose SB 317 because it is dangerous legislation. In addition, my son is a high school music teacher and the lives of Ohio teachers are put in danger by this legislation. I strongly urge you to put the safety of your constituents first and reject SB 317.

Stephanie Pestello