

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Cindy Pearson

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.

My name is Cindy Rhyan Pearson and I am a lifelong Ohio resident and regular voter. I live in Delaware County and have two children who are 18 and 21 years old and both college students. I was a stay at home mom for many years and was very active in my children's schools as a volunteer and aide in their classrooms.

I cannot imagine schools with teachers who are armed with guns. I believe it is incredibly dangerous and irresponsible to put guns in the hands of people who we entrust our children's safety to each day. Arming teachers is NOT the answer to the school shooting epidemic. And while there may not be a simple solution to the epidemic, I am certain that more guns in the schools is not the answer, especially in the hands of people who are not properly prepared or trained.

Under current state law, all armed school employees must complete either an approved basic peace officer training course or have completed 20 years of active duty as a peace officer. The proposed SB 317 would exempt teachers from this requirement and allow as little as 8 hours of concealed carry training, the majority of those hours being attainable online. Or it allows for no training at all if the gun is not concealed. This is unacceptable and wildly dangerous.

My sister in law taught high school Chemistry/Physics in Columbus Public schools for 30+ years. Countless times, she was put in the situation of having to break up fights and/or physically restrain students. She was injured (bitten, kicked, hit) numerous times. She knows that it would be more likely that a student disarm her in the midst of a fight if she were carrying a weapon, rather than her having the ability to confront a school shooter should one infiltrate the school. I believe that arming teachers not only puts students at a higher risk of an accident, but it endangers our teachers more as well.

I am urging the committee to vote against SB 317. Please do not further endanger the lives of our school children, teachers, administrators and staff by enacting this irresponsible and dangerous legislation.

Thank you.  
Cindy Pearson