

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Megan Holtz

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 and voter. Since 2001, I have been a special education teacher. This Tuesday, September 1st, 2020, I will welcome students back into my classroom. The anxiety, excitement, concern and stress that comes with every school year is present this fall. It is exacerbated by the pandemic. Saturday morning I woke up too early, my mind racing. My thoughts were these: Does the new teacher across the hall know where his "Stop the Bleed" bucket is? Should I advise him to move his bookcase near his classroom door, to be used as a barricade in the event an active shooter attempts to enter? Maybe I shouldn't put these horrible thoughts into his head the day before we welcome back kids? What if I don't?

These aren't the questions that should be waking me up at night. The regularity of school shootings and the obscene number of American lives lost every single day to gun violence is not an easy issue. However, the lack of common sense gun control legislation at the state level is abhorrent. It is shameful that the vast majority of Americans support universal background checks, and our state ignores their voters in favor of the gun lobby.

SB 317 would recklessly allow teachers to carry loaded weapons in the classroom with little or no training. I urge lawmakers to oppose this dangerous legislation. There is no evidence that arming teachers will save lives. This is an experiment I will not let myself, my children, or my students be a part of.

Megan Holtz