

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Kathleen Durkin

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 oppose SB 317. I have had the privilege of working with children, teens and families my entire career. I spent 15 years providing social work services in a public school setting. Additionally I was a first responder to the Chardon School Shooting, and was placed there for an additional six months to provide trauma based services to students, faculty and administrators. I am a Sandy Hook Promise Leader and have presented safe school assemblies throughout northeast Ohio to hundreds of students and staff. Lastly I worked closely with non for profits that surfaced out of the Virginia Tech shooting including Actively Caring for People. Important to note, I have worked closely with various School Resource Officers whom I hold in high regard.

I cannot even begin to imagine the risks this would place on EVERYONE involved including children, staff, school resource officers, responding police officers, school districts and communities at large.

I don't believe any amount of training can keep armed teachers and those around them safe. These are the same individuals - Humans- who on any given day may misplace or have personal items stolen including keys and cell phones. Do you wish to add into that mix, loaded weapons? Teachers are education heroes - teaching academics & skills of daily living- helping young people become solid contributors to society.

Please note my opposition to SB 317!

This will add to an already dangerous society.

Kathleen Durkin