

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Shalini Sood-Mendiratta

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.

Hello my name is Shalini Sood-Mendiratta and I am a physician in Cleveland and a mother of two young elementary students. I am in opposition of SB317 a bill that would allow teachers to carry a loaded gun in the classroom without significant safety training. I am very concerned about the safety of students, teachers and the risk of accidental injury or harm due to the presence of a gun. Teachers are already overwhelmed with the demands on them to teach and keep our children happy and safe and they do not need the burden of keeping a gun safe and out of reach in the classroom.

The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association oppose allowing guns in schools. Additionally, the federal government's chief legal, law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies all agree that allowing civilians to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice.

Please keep our children and teachers safe and vote AGAINST SB317.

Shalini Sood-Mendiratta