

Testimony on Senate Bill 317

Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by: Donna Malone

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. 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—including teachers, security guards, and special police—must either complete an approved basic peace officer training course, or have completed 20 years of active duty as a peace officer. There is no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools.

SB 317 would worsen an already-dangerous situation by gutting the training Ohio law currently requires and allowing teachers to carry guns in schools without extensive safety training.

I am a grandma and can't imagine my little grandbabies to be in a room with a teacher who had a loaded gun in the classroom! I am a nurse and know that when a 'code' is called, despite yearly training, people get anxious and excited and mistakes happen and usually small ones that are easily corrected. But what about in the tense situation of having someone in the school with a gun and an armed teacher, in the excitement of the moment, accidentally shoots a child? What about the possibility of the police responding to the school shooting who may think the teacher is the perpetrator and shoot them?

I understand the sentiment but just don't think this law would make the classroom safer and would likely make it more unsafe as it would allow teachers to have loaded guns in the classroom without much training!

**Please do not let this bill out of committee!**

Sincerely,

Donna Malone