

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Carol Kralik

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.

SB317 asks teachers to take on another (very dangerous) role during their school day. Combined with the pressures of preparing and teaching classes you will be asking teachers to shoulder the responsibility of protecting the entire school population each and every day, and you will be allowing teachers to do this without training. This has the potential for damaging more lives in a school environment, not fewer. A teacher who has to give their full attention to a class of students cannot possibly be fully vigilant in preventing school gun violence and a teacher that has to be fully vigilant in preventing school gun violence cannot possibly give their full attention to teaching.

And to not train teachers, which will add hours to their already stressed lives, will only open the door for more tragedy. Take a moment to imagine a scenario where a stressed untrained teacher thought there was an imminent threat and killed students. Imagine the physical and psychological damage that will result.

You, as legislators, have the duty to make our schools safer, not more dangerous by stopping the passage of a bill that allows untrained individuals to carry weapons that can kill.

Carol Kralik