

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Melanie Cornelius

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.

My name is Melanie Cornelius. I live with my husband in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and I'm a registered voter. I'm writing today in opposition to OH SB317.

Current Ohio law requires all armed school employees to have either approximately 728 hours of instruction in a basic peace officer training course or 20 years of active duty as a police officer. OH SB 317 would wipe away these requirements, allowing teachers and other school employees to carry a gun with as little as 8 hours of training. This massive reduction in training endangers not only students but also teachers.

In numerous cases, armed school employees have discharged weapons on school grounds. Other incidents include lost or stolen guns—guns later found with students.

Teachers in this day and age have so much responsibility. Aside from their main goal of teaching students, they're running underfunded classrooms. They're acting as social workers and counselors. They deal with parents who don't respect their methods. They work with an inflexible curriculum for students who all have different learning styles. It's irresponsible to add the burden of a weapon on top of that.

I have three high-school-aged nephews and countless friends with children who are in elementary and middle school. Adding guns is not the way to keep them safe.

I urge you to vote against SB317.

Melanie Cornelius