

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Sheri Cody

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.

As a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist in Stark County, I am urging you to vote no on SB 317. As a professional, I have been involved with hundreds of emergency situations. I can tell you that years of training and retraining are required to remain calm and handle extremely stressful situations. Also having mentors who have dealt with emergencies is an important component to handling emergencies. The sheer lack of training hours in this bill, 6 hours of which are simply online, is not significant to train anyone to use a weapon in a crisis.

This bill requires only 8 hours of training, but provides little actual experience with a trained expert. This lack of educational experience is a recipe for disaster in a school shooter situation. In places where guns have been allowed, there have already been incidents of misplaced guns and accidental discharge of a firearm. If your goal is to make schools safer, this is not the credible option.

The push to arm teachers is simply another misguided effort orchestrated by the gun lobby and special interest groups. This is nothing more than a publicity stunt. It will not make schools safer, but will in fact make them an ideal set up for a tragedy. Allowing guns in schools is an idea opposed by teacher organizations, public health organizations, emergency responders and concerned citizens. I am not sure why there is continual push to move this bad idea forward.

As a CRNA I have seen the devastation of gunshot wounds and the chance of any student or staff member being involved in a gun accident is enough for me to oppose this legislation. Our children, grandchildren, teachers and school personnel deserve better than this. Arming teachers with less training and experience than peace officers is nothing short of a very bad idea. I urge you to vote no on SB317.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri Cody, RN, BSN, CRNA