

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Valerie Lee

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.

I am a retired School Psychologist with more than 30 years of experience in urban school settings. Even though I worked with students who had diagnosed mental illness and I visited families in their homes, the thought of carrying a weapon never crossed my mind.

Following my retirement, I became involved with the League of Women Voters taking a real interest in any issues involving gun safety. In my role as Action Chair, I continue to keep our members informed about issues and proposed legislation. Over the weekend I attended a conference with physicians and other health professionals. The workshop pertaining to guns in our society was of particular interest. Allow me to share with you one observation made by a physician. We cannot allow an appeal to ideology to outweigh a workable strategy. Hopefully, our legislators will heed this advice.

Simply arming teachers might satisfy the gun zealots but it would not create a system to eradicate personal injury. Physicians should take a leading role in strategizing a plan, and a diverse group of professionals should have a seat at the table. I strongly recommend voting no on SB 317. It does not present a workable plan and a better solution can be reached if you draw from the professional expertise of informed stakeholders.

Valerie Lee