

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Abigail Jansen Busdeker

Thank you Representative Coley and the Government Oversight and Reform Committee for allowing me to submit testimony about SB317. I am a resident of Cincinnati, a voter and mom of a kindergartener, a second grader and a fourth grader.

Our school district starts school this week. This week I attended meetings with district administration about start of school affairs. There is no doubt who the heroes are right now. Our districts and administrators have been working all summer, long hours to ensure the safety of our students and their staff. Watching them pivot to both face-to-face and virtual learning and training our teachers to handle both scenarios has been a wonder to watch. They are trying their hardest to support our families, ensure children learn and keep our children safe from this virus.

In the midst of this chaos, this committee has once again brought to hearing SB317 which drastically cuts training hours for armed teachers. I see but one reason to have this hearing now. Our educators, who would likely vastly oppose this legislation, are too overwhelmed to write their own testimonies for you. Holding this hearing now, is but one more way to limit opposing voices. I feel great disappointment that our democracy is working this way.

A tenured and well-respected superintendent of schools is part of my family. He is against guns in schools with the exception of the school resource officer. He works closely with the County Sheriff to ensure his district has the proper safety precautions in case of an attack. The Sheriff is against armed teachers.

Arming teachers makes situations more chaotic with greater opportunity for loss of life. Arming teachers is already a risky decision. Arming teachers while removing training mandates borders on lunacy.

Who does this legislation benefit? I may not have all of those answers but I know who it doesn't benefit: the children in the school building. As a parent, I want my children to be the beneficiary of state laws. Instead, we are discussing laws that clearly do the opposite. There are many cases of guns accidentally falling into students' hands. Two

such examples include a student stealing a gun from a teacher's purse in Arkansas¹ and another in Missouri.² Guns in schools do not make our children safer.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please oppose SB317. An affirmative vote is admission that our children do not matter to you.

Abigail Jansen Busdeker

¹ <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2012/jan/17/jacksonville-high-student-steals-gun-teacher/>

² <https://fox2now.com/news/police-find-teachers-stolen-gun-with-student/>