

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Judy Harbaugh

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 an Ohio resident, a registered and consistent voter. Most of my life I have been an educator and a good portion of those years has been working with children.

My two prized titles are Mom and Grammy.

Today I speak for my granddaughters and the many children who are in our Ohio schools.

In a recent conversation with several parents, I was asking about the “safety drills” that are going on in their schools. They explained the purpose of the drills is to teach children what to do when a stranger comes into the school. The children practice locking the door to their classroom, hiding and being quite. All under the guidance of a teacher, whom they trust and who is their sole support in these drills and should the unspeakable happen when there is an intruder.

“Do your children understand why they are practicing these drills?” I asked.

They paused and said, “They have no idea. If they understood that they were hiding from someone who might be coming into their classroom with a gun, they would be scared to death and not want to go back to school.” Knowing about SB317, they said, “if they even saw their teacher with a gun it would be more traumatic than I/we can imagine.”

For many of our school children, the classroom is one of the few places they can feel safe. There is NO amount of firearms training that would make it a good idea to arm classroom teachers and make the danger of violence seem imminent.

VOTE AGAINST SB317!!

Judy Harbaugh

