

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Sandra Conway

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 Sandra Conway. I am a resident of Ohio and regularly exercise my right to vote. Professionally, I have over 17 years' experience working in Supply Chain Management. I am also a mom of two boys and deeply concerned about their safety in school.

SB 317 would allow teachers to carry loaded guns in Ohio's schools without completing the safety training currently required by Ohio law. Currently, training required is either an approved basic peace officer training course or 20 years of active duty as a peace officer. This bill would allow personnel in schools to conceal carry with as little as 8 hours of training, 6 which can be completed online. It would also allow for no training if firearms are open carried.

I oppose this training requirements change and this bill. My oldest child was involved in a lock down in his school when he was in 3rd grade. The city police asked the school to lock down due to gun violence at a car dealership down the road. The suspect never turned up near the school, and my son came home that night just a little worried and confused about his day.

Now imagine that day, one of the staff members pulled out a gun to "protect" the students. Maybe this person is a little nervous because they don't know all that is happening outside the school. Would you be comfortable with this nervous staff member who has had only 2 in person hours of training and 6 hours online holding a weapon in a classroom with 25 scared kids? I know I am not. In fact, according to the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, July 2016, law enforcement officers with 168 hours of weapons, self-defense, and use of force training see their ability to shoot accurately decreases significantly when engaged in gunfights with perpetrators. How can we expect a person with far less training could keep calm and not further endanger themselves and the kids they are trying to protect?

Please do not support SB 317. Ohio children deserve better. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Conway