

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Elizabeth Wetherholt

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 teacher who retired after 30 years of service in the Dublin City Schools as a special education intervention specialist. I had experience in elementary, middle school and high school levels. I am adamantly opposed to teachers carrying guns in schools in any situation. My experience demonstrated that there is no secure situation for a teacher to be carrying a gun in any school classroom. There are too many situations in which the gun would be more of a liability than a safety factor. Teachers must be aware of all things going on in a classroom. In watching all of the other situations, a teacher might not be aware of a student who might try to grab a gun from the teacher. There are no secure places in a school classroom. I once had my purse stolen from a locked file cabinet in my classroom.

Legislators who have never spent time in a classroom have no conception of what a teacher deals with. I will tell you that a teacher's sole responsibility is for the safety of her students--NOT hunting down some danger. The only way to protect schools is to limit weapons throughout our state and country--not by adding more weapons.

Please defeat SB 317.

Elizabeth Wetherholt