

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Madeline Dyer

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 Madeline Dyer and I am a Kindergarten teacher in Southwestern City Schools and a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

I am writing to you again in opposition of SB 317, which would allow untrained teachers to carry loaded guns into Ohio elementary, middle, and high schools. As a teacher, I do not want to carry a gun onto school grounds nor do I want my coworkers carrying guns in Ohio schools.

Arming civilians and introducing guns into our schools is not an effective way to stop an active shooter. Law enforcement officers receive an average of 840 hours of basic training, including 168 hours of training on weapons, self-defense, and the use of force (Reaves, 2016). But in states with laws aimed at arming school personnel, school staff receive significantly less or no training. Even some of the most highly trained law enforcement in the country, the New York City Police Department, see their ability to shoot accurately decrease significantly when engaged in gunfights with perpetrators (Rostker and Hanser, 2008). The fear of a school shooting is something that I face everyday when my students and I arrive at our building, however, research has failed to prove that arming teachers is an effective solution. It is time to stop considering bringing more guns into schools and instead create safe and equitable schools with effective trauma informed emergency planning.

SB 317 would worsen an already-dangerous situation by gutting the training Ohio law currently requires and allowing teachers to carry guns in schools without extensive safety training. There is no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools. For these reasons, I ask that you vote against SB 317.

Sincerely,  
Madeline Dyer

Rostker BD, Hanser LM, Hix WM, et al. Evaluation of the New York City Police Department firearm training and firearm-discharge review process. Rand Corporation.  
<https://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG717.html>. Published 2008.

Reaves BA. State and local law enforcement training academies, 2013. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. July 2016. <https://bit.ly/2pg0whl>.