

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Marilyn Rossiter

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.

More guns equals more violence. Please listen to my story.

I was an elementary music teacher for twenty years in Ohio during the '80's and 90's. I also taught English and peacemaking skills to former child soldiers in Liberia from 2004-2006. I am sickened by the possibility of teachers in this country being issued guns with little or no training.

Where there are guns, there will eventually be violence. This is a proven statement.

In a country rife with civil war (Liberia) there were no guns only because the U. N. came in and collected all firearms after the fourteen-year civil war. I witnessed so much pain and trauma as children tried to return to their home villages. They are still dealing with this pain caused by the violence of easy killing via firearms.

Sadly, the United States is a country which has more guns than citizens. We have bought into the erroneous belief that strength comes from who has the most guns. Violence only begets more violence. When will we ever learn?

Schools need to be a safe place for creativity, growth and learning. Bringing guns into the classroom for "safety" will not work.

We are going down the same dangerous path as Liberia. More weapons do not equal more safety, neither for the teachers nor the students. Please , please do not vote for this.

Our peaceful future depends on your vote.

Thank you,
Marilyn Rossiter
Founder of Bridge of Hope Girls School
Monrovia, Liberia
Former Teacher at Dalton Local Schools,
Dalton, Ohio