

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Helen McCarthy

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 Helen Davidson McCarthy. I grew up in Springfield Ohio and retired from The Ohio State Medical Center. I have been an RN then nurse practitioner for the past 47 years. I have volunteered in the Columbus City schools for the past 11 years when my daughter began teaching.

As a concerned Ohio Citizen, I am entreating you to Vote NO on SB317!

There is no amount of training that makes it safe for teachers, staff, administrators or volunteers to carry guns in schools.

SB 317 would worsen an already-dangerous situation by gutting the training Ohio law currently requires and allow teachers to carry guns in schools without extensive safety training!

Arming teachers will lead to more gun injuries and deaths not fewer! Per the Giffords Law Center, "Since 2014 there have been over 30 publicly reported incidents where a gun was fired or negligently handled by armed adults at schools, including some where a police officer unintentionally discharged the weapon."

If a school does make this risky decision to have guns in their schools they should not get less training than current standards demand but much more training to minimize unintended consequences!

SB 317 is a distraction from the real threat we face and the serious discussions we need regarding gun violence in our communities! Less guns in our communities -not more - is likely to keep us safer!

Please used evidenced-based studies when you make decisions regarding this major public health problem. You can find reliable data from Everytown.org

Most medical and public health associations (AMA, AAP, AAFP, APA etc.), the Chiefs of Police (from major cities across the country) as well as the National Association of School Resource Officers, the AFT and NEA representing millions of teachers and staff, ALL OPPOSE ARMING SCHOOL TEACHERS, STAFF, ADMINISTRATORS & VOLUNTEERS!

Please vote no on SB317 & then start working on evidence based sensible solutions to the increasing gun violence in all of our Ohio communities!

Thank you for helping to keep all Ohioans safe!
My children's & grandchildren's lives may depend upon it!

Helen McCarthy