

Testimony on Senate Bill 317  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:  
Lillian Moskeland

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 Lillian Moskeland. I have resided in Ohio since 2013 and voted in all elections here and wherever I've lived. I have taught since I was 21 in pre, elementary, middle school, secondary and in all undergraduate levels of University until my retirement after approximately 30 years.

I worry about SB317 that would allow teachers to carry loaded guns in Ohio. Teachers who receive minimal gun safety training and should concentrate on teaching their students to become critical thinkers appropriate to their level of knowledge, teachers who would have seconds to decide how to use a loaded weapon in an emergency, who would face being confused as the perpetrator of any violence if armed, who could shoot an innocent in any confusion, who should not be placed in such a position. The danger to teacher and student is tremendous.

When I taught in a high school in Louisiana two students who carried weapons were being chased down the hall while I stood on hall duty. Seconds after I witnessed them running down the outer hall, my inner hall area was filled with students from all classes. There was panic all around. However the police were able to do their job and caught the two frightened, yet guilty young men without interference. My job was to calm students, keep them in a protected hallway, and let the authorities do their job unimpeded. I am thankful I wasn't expected to wave a gun and possibly harm the excited and frightened teens who were under my charge. I didn't have to teach them by example that the only way to resolve the situation was through further gun violence. I was thankful these twenty years later I did not have that forever on my conscience.

Eight short hours, 6 online, required of training for school personnel is not adequate and would not have been adequate in my experience.

We resort to violence too easily in our United States, as it is. Guns don't save or necessarily diffuse a situation in the hands of trained officers, what do we think they will do in the hands of teachers? There may be some in the field of education willing, maybe

even eager, to see this bill passed. I strongly believe lawmakers need to consider the dangers. They should reject SB 317. They should consider carefully who is behind this desire to arm teachers whose job is already difficult.

I loved teaching students at all levels. I was trained to handle classroom situations and to deal with student conflict. This SB 317 concerns me and I worry for the real lessons we are teaching children and young people.

I urge the committee to vote against SB317, please.

Lillian Moskeland