

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
The Rev. Margaret Sammons

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'm an Ohio resident and voter, and I am writing to express my horror at proposed Senate Bill 317. Current law in Ohio requires those who carry loaded weapons inside a school building to have completed a peace officer training course, or to be a police officer with 20 years active duty experience. This is for the protection of all.

The idea of allowing school teachers and other personnel to carry a loaded weapon with little, or, if it is not concealed, no training -- that is a tragedy waiting to happen. As the mother of a teacher, mother in law of a principal, and grandmother of a rising 3rd grader, I am appalled that you would put my dear ones in such risk.

My daughter and daughter-in-law tell me that there is no teacher in favor of this bill. A loaded weapon in the hands of a minimally trained person could easily be grabbed by a student in a moment of anger, or by a student who has mental health issues. The children witnessing the resulting carnage -- if they do survive it -- will be traumatized for the rest of their lives.

Please drop this terribly dangerous idea and vote against SB317. There is much more constructive work that needs to be done, including defeating COVID.

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