

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Elisabeth Loring

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 Elisabeth Loring. I am a resident of Hudson, Ohio in Summit county.

I strongly oppose SB 317 and urge you to vote against it. In my opinion, arming untrained or barely trained teachers is a very dangerous thing to do for our teachers, the school staff and the students.

My kids feel safe with the current armed officers who work at their high school but both told me they would feel UNSAFE if their teachers were armed. I believe only highly trained individuals should be able to be trusted to ensure the safety of my kids. I believe they are the only ones capable of reacting appropriately and with the least amount of casualties (if any) in the case of an active shooter event. They have not only received training to shoot weapons but also to handle stressful situations and their experience is very valuable. 8 hours of training proposed in SB 317 is definitely pale in comparison, unacceptable and very dangerous.

In my opinion, SB 317 allows and encourages the escalation of violence in America, creates a stressful environment on a normal school day and would most probably result in accidental shootings. In school, we need to focus on academic education and teach our kids that life is precious and violence is not the answer.

Again, I urge you to hear my opinion and that of my kids and to vote against SB 317. We have a right to be heard and to oppose arming teachers whose role is to educate, not bear arms.

Best regards,
Your concerned constituent,
Elisa Loring