

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
Amy Malloy

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 Amy Malloy and I am an Ohio resident and, most importantly, an Ohio voter. I have lived in Ohio my entire life and I am the mother of two wonderful sons, ages 20 and 18. This is my first time preparing written testimony for a government hearing, despite having previously practiced law for 7 years before leaving that career to become a full-time homemaker and mom.

When I recently became aware of SB 317, I knew I could no longer be silent. It appears that the gun lobby is using the distraction of this pandemic to push through dangerous legislation that would put your constituents at an even greater risk, allowing teachers to carry loaded guns in Ohio schools without completing the safety training currently required by Ohio law. I cannot think of a single reason to enact such a dangerous piece of legislation.

Already during this pandemic, Ohio schools are requiring families to, in many cases, assume the additional risks of illness (and possibly death) from COVID-19 by returning to the classroom, be they teachers, students, or other school employees. The timing of this bill is disappointing to say the least, when lawmakers should be doing all they can to protect these constituents, not put them at greater risk. There is NO amount of training that makes it safe for teachers to carry guns in schools. SB317 would worsen an already dangerous situation and, therefore, should be rejected. It's unconscionable.

I have two nieces who are teachers in the State of Ohio. Both of them love what they do but I worry every day about their safety and, more recently of course, about their health as well. One of them has already suffered from COVID-19 over the summer and is now back in the classroom teaching because she loves what she does. The other is beginning her second full year of teaching (the first year having been abruptly cut short last Spring during the lockdown), and I pray every day she will also remain safe and well.

SB317 is an irresponsible bill and it is my sincere hope that this committee will see its way through to rejecting it for the health and safety of every citizen in the State of Ohio. Please vote AGAINST SB317. Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony.

Amy Malloy