

Testimony on Senate Bill 317
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Submitted by:
William T Koltek

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony.

I am a 30 plus-year resident of Stark County, Ohio, who opposes SB317.

We demand a great deal of our public school teachers, administrators and staff. We ask them not only to serve as teachers and principals, but also as de facto social workers, crisis mediators and surrogate parents. Their job is demanding and difficult.

The coronavirus pandemic has placed further stresses on school staff, students and families. The decision to open schools under these circumstances is profoundly dangerous. While that issue falls outside the scope of this discussion, it must be acknowledged as a further strain on Ohio's educational systems.

To demand that educators double as armed security guards in our schools is unreasonable. The more guns we have on school property, the greater the likelihood of their use. The greater their likelihood of their use, the greater the potential for tragedy,

To demand that educators double as armed security guards in our schools with inadequate or minimal training in the use of firearms is not only unreasonable, but insane. It is an open invitation to mayhem and disaster. There is no way such a scenario would allow for the successful resolution of a crisis situation.

It is long past time for our elected officials to consider the welfare of their constituents before the welfare of the firearms industry and the National Rifle Association, whose corruption has recently been the subject of much attention in the press. SB317 is a terrible idea that refuses to die. If it is passed, however, we can expect that some of our fellow Ohioans, including some of our children, will.

In the name of public safety and representative democracy, please reject SB317. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

William T Koltek