

My name is Carly Dougherty. I'm representing myself. I am here to oppose SB17-005, training teachers; like myself, to carry concealed hand guns in schools.

I am currently a 4th year student at Metropolitan State University working towards my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. My goal is to be a Kindergarten teacher in the public-school system. I'm currently a lead pre-school teacher and am in public-school classrooms regularly for field-experiences.

I have personally been effected by gun violence. My aunt, Mary Sherlach, was the brave school phycologist at Sandy Hook Elementary school. She was killed trying to protect her students and fellow faculty.

As a little girl, I always dreamed of being a teacher. I would have my little brother sit and be my student as I taught him math and reading lessons. I pictured myself in a classroom with lots of books, a rocking chair, and happy kindergarteners. I never pictured a loaded concealed handgun strapped to my hip.

I understand that I would not personally, as a teacher, be required to carry a concealed handgun. But the thought of my colleague in the rooms surrounding mine being armed does not make me feel safe either.

Having a loaded weapon on a teacher who is surrounded by 30 students is hazardous to all. When sitting during a read aloud or working one-on-one with a student my mind would only be on the fact that I had a loaded gun sitting next to my students. I would not be able to focus my attention on enriching the minds of my students when I had the added stress of loaded weapons in my school.

I have taken classes on child psychology, children's literacy, teaching math and science, and other aspects of Early childhood education. I chose a path in Education not one in Criminal Justice.

Guns are not conducive to a learning environment. Teachers are there for their passion for education not to be security personnel. Vote no against this bill.