

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 42-18

INTRODUCED BY: Medical Student Section

SUBJECT: Oppose Arming Non-Security School Personnel at Schools for  
Students in Pre-K to 12th Grade

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1 Whereas, Firearm related violence in schools is a serious public health issue in the US, where  
2 there have been over 239 incidents of firearm discharge in schools since 2012, resulting in the  
3 shooting of 438 people, of which 138 were fatally shot<sup>1</sup>; and  
4  
5 Whereas, Current AMA policy has identified that “gun violence represents a public health crisis  
6 which requires a comprehensive public health response and solution” (D-145.995, Gun Violence  
7 as a Public Health Crisis D-145.995); and  
8  
9 Whereas, President Donald Trump has proposed to incentivize teachers to bring firearms to  
10 school to prevent firearm related violence at schools<sup>2</sup>; and  
11  
12 Whereas, There is no evidence to support that arming teachers would decrease the rate of violent  
13 attacks or firearm related deaths in schools; and  
14  
15 Whereas, In an analysis of active shooter situations from 2000-2013 (160 total), only 3.8 percent  
16 of the confrontations were resolved by the use of firearms by individuals who were not law  
17 enforcement<sup>3</sup>; and  
18  
19 Whereas, Having a gun in the home is associated with a greater odds of homicide and suicide  
20 resulting from firearm use<sup>4</sup>; and  
21  
22 Whereas, 73% of US teachers oppose allowing teachers and school staff to carry guns in school<sup>5</sup>;  
23 and

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<sup>1</sup> Patel JK. After Sandy Hook, More Than 400 People Have Been Shot in Over 200 School Shootings. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/02/15/us/school-shootings-sandy-hook-parkland.html>. Published February 15, 2018. Accessed March 29, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Liptak K, Gray N. Trump proposes bonuses for teachers who get gun training. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/22/politics/donald-trump-gun-reforms-school-shooting/index.html>. Published February 24, 2018. Accessed March 29, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Holt B, Blair LE, Legus G. *Planning and Response to an Active Shooter.*; 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Wiebe DJ. Homicide and suicide risks associated with firearms in the home: A national case-control study. *Annals of Emergency Medicine.* 2003;41(6):771-782. doi:10.1067/mem.2003.187.

24 Whereas, The “Safe School Initiative” report by the US Secret Service and Department of  
25 Education recommends that the role of the teacher and school personnel be to “pick up  
26 on...signals and make appropriate referrals,” assist in “threat assessment,” and “create an  
27 environment where students feel comfortable telling an adult” about safety concerns <sup>6</sup>; and  
28

29 Whereas, Maryland prohibits any person from carrying or possessing a firearm on public school  
30 property unless they qualify for an exemption to this rule such as being a law enforcement  
31 officer<sup>7</sup>; therefore be it  
32

33 Resolved, that MedChi oppose legislation and initiatives that would allow non-security  
34 personnel, such as teachers and school administrators, to bring, store, or discharge firearms at  
35 schools for students in Pre-K to 12th grade.  
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37 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 22, 2018.  
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<sup>5</sup> Gallup, Inc. Most U.S. Teachers Oppose Carrying Guns in Schools. Gallup.com. <http://news.gallup.com/poll/229808/teachers-oppose-carrying-guns-schools.aspx>. Published March 16, 2018. Accessed March 29, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> United States Secret Service and United States Department of Education. *Final Report And Findings Of The Safe School Initiative Implications For The Prevention Of School Attacks In The U.s.* Diane Pub Co; 2004.

<sup>7</sup> Guns in Schools in Maryland. Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/guns-in-schools-in-maryland/>. Published November 18, 2017. Accessed March 29, 2018.