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

Whereas, Firearm related violence in schools is a serious public health issue in the US, where there have been over 239 incidents of firearm discharge in schools since 2012, resulting in the shooting of 438 people, of which 138 were fatally shot; and

Whereas, Current AMA policy has identified that “gun violence represents a public health crisis which requires a comprehensive public health response and solution” (D-145.995, Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis D-145.995); and

Whereas, President Donald Trump has proposed to incentivize teachers to bring firearms to school to prevent firearm related violence at schools; and

Whereas, There is no evidence to support that arming teachers would decrease the rate of violent attacks or firearm related deaths in schools; and

Whereas, In an analysis of active shooter situations from 2000-2013 (160 total), only 3.8 percent of the confrontations were resolved by the use of firearms by individuals who were not law enforcement; and

Whereas, Having a gun in the home is associated with a greater odds of homicide and suicide resulting from firearm use; and

Whereas, 73% of US teachers oppose allowing teachers and school staff to carry guns in school; and

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3 Holt B, Blair LE, Legus G. Planning and Response to an Active Shooter.; 2015.

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

Whereas, Maryland prohibits any person from carrying or possessing a firearm on public school property unless they qualify for an exemption to this rule such as being a law enforcement officer⁷; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi oppose legislation and initiatives that would allow non-security personnel, such as teachers and school administrators, to bring, store, or discharge firearms at schools for students in Pre-K to 12th grade.

As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 22, 2018.

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