

Opposition to Senate Bills 584-586 and 366 Board of Education Resolution

WHEREAS, a public school district is tasked with providing for the safety and welfare of its students and to educate students in a safe and nurturing environment.

Whereas, in *Michigan Gun Owners, Inc. v Ann Arbor Public Schools* (318 Mich App 338 (2016)) and *Michigan Open Carry v Clio Area School District* (318 Mich App 356 (2016)), the Michigan Court of Appeals found that school districts have the authority to promulgate policies that ban the possession of firearms on school property and at school-sponsored events; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 584 would allow an individual with a Concealed Pistol License to request a special endorsement to carry a concealed firearm into no-carry zones, such as schools, day cares and stadiums with only a minimal amount of additional training; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 586 would prohibit local Board of Education decisions on whether or not to allow weapons on school property by amending Public Act 319 of 1990 to include a school district, community college district and public library in the list of public entities that are prohibited from enacting firearm regulations stricter than any federal or state law; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 366 would create a concealed pistol license for people ages 18-21, instead of the current law that does not allow concealed carry for anyone under the age of 21; and

Whereas, SB 584 also bans the open carry of firearms in pistol-free zones to address the disruption this has caused in schools, this bill is being sold as a compromise to the “open carry issue,” however, it is not a compromise that the education community supports; and

Whereas, our concerns are focused on the safety of our students, staff and others visiting our campuses. Allowing more guns in schools is not a solution and places more people in harm’s way, including our students. Moving to a concealed carry system only hides the danger of a gun on campus; and

Whereas, SB 586 would not allow a district to set policies regarding firearms except for their own students and staff, this would not cover visiting students or staff for extracurriculars or those who participate in shared time programs; and

Whereas, even with the most well-intentioned individual, accidents happen. With more guns in schools we are fearful of mistakes that could put the 1.5 million students that walk the halls of our K-12 buildings every day without incident in unnecessary danger. This is too big a risk to take with their lives; and

Whereas, we have seen tragic shootings over recent years and even weeks in and around schools, nothing in this legislation will bring these incidents to an end nor will it create safer schools; and

Whereas, having armed citizens in our schools will likely increase emergency response times. It will hinder the ability of law enforcement to quickly take charge of a situation because they would first have to identify who is a licensed CPL holder and who is the active shooter; and

Whereas any weapon on school property can disrupt the educational process for the school community and a 2015 EPIC/MRA poll showed that a majority, 57%, of the general public opposed concealed carry in schools; and

Whereas the **Board of Education of Livingston ESA** believe the only people that should have guns on school property should be uniformed public safety officers;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Board of Education of Livingston ESA opposes Senate Bills 584-586 and 366 and urges lawmakers and the Governor to allow local school boards to enact their own policies regarding weapons on school grounds; and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to Gov. Rick Snyder and the district's State Representatives and Senators.

Adopted February 21, 2018