



TO: State Affiliate Executive Directors

FROM: NEA Office of General Counsel
NEA Center for Advocacy

DATE: May 21, 2018

RE: School Board Resolutions Against Arming Educators

This advisory provides guidance on developing draft school board resolutions opposing proposals to arm educators and education support professionals. It includes a template resolution, as well as state-specific language appropriate for inclusion in a resolution.

Background. In the aftermath of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, there have been renewed calls—most notably by President Trump—for schools to arm teachers and educational professionals. Rather than seriously grappling with the very real challenges of gun control, access to mental health services, and school safety, the President and his allies blithely urge more guns as a panacea. The NEA has strenuously opposed these proposals as wildly counterproductive and a distraction from the real needs of students and educators.¹

In this struggle, we have often—and not surprisingly—found allies in local elected school boards. Recognizing the shared interest in a safe school environment, local affiliates are encouraging school boards to adopt official resolutions against arming educators. Official school board action here can provide a powerful, public expression of just how misguided these proposals to arm educators really are. They also vividly demonstrate that this is an *education* issue that transcends politics and labor relations.

Purpose of this Advisory. For these reasons, NEA strongly encourages local affiliates to work with their local school boards to develop and support such resolutions. We have prepared a generic template resolution, included here as [Appendix 1](#). Because relevant laws on school safety and gun control vary widely from

¹ National Education Association, “NEA: Parents, educators ‘overwhelmingly reject’ idea of arming school staff” (Feb. 21, 2018), available at www.nea.org/home/72835.htm.

state to state, we have also prepared sample state-specific language for such resolutions, included here as Appendix 2.

Of course, local affiliates and districts may want to customize a resolution to reflect local circumstances. As appropriate, a resolution could also reference, for example, existing school board policies and/or regulations on school safety, or the positions opposing the arming of educators taken by state or local elected office holders, law enforcement organizations, PTAs, and/or labor organizations representing other public education employees.

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Questions about the foregoing should be directed to: NEA Staff Attorney Jacob Rukeyser (jrukeyser@nea.org) or Mary Kusler, Senior Director, NEA Center for Advocacy (mkusler@nea.org).