



---

49 Charles Avenue Middlebury, VT 05753 P. 802-382-1274 F. 802-388-0024 Business Office 802-382-1274

February 19, 2018

To: Governor Phil Scott, Speaker Mitzi Johnson, Pro Tempore Tim Ashe  
Fr: Addison Central School District School Board  
Re: Resolution Related to Action on Gun-Related Violence Prevention

Whereas, gun related violence at American public schools, including frequent mass shootings like the one last week in Parkland, Florida in which 17 staff members and students were killed, have reached epidemic levels; and

Whereas, our schools in Vermont are not immune to both the possibility and reality of such gun related violence and mass shootings, as evidenced by marking the 10-year anniversary of the Essex School shooting, significant threats of violence last year against students at South Burlington High School, and most recently the thwarting of a plan for a mass shooting at Fair Haven High School; and

Whereas, Vermont school children spend increasingly more time participating in lock-down and active shooter drills (now more common than fire drills), detracting from time spent on critical classroom learning and invoking significant anxiety and fear among students and teachers; and

Whereas, Vermont school districts are forced to spend larger and larger portions of their limited budgets on security-related facilities upgrades, security personnel, trainings, and drills to potentially defend our students, staff, and community members against military-style attacks on our students, staff, and school buildings; and

Whereas, students have the right to attend school free from the fear of death or injury as a result of gun-related violence; and

Whereas, parents have the right to send their children to a school in which they have confidence in their children's physical, psychological, and emotional safety; and

Whereas, communities have a right to protection against mass violence and unbelievable tragedy as the result of gun-related violence; and

Whereas, we are local elected officials charged with ensuring the education, health, and safety of students on behalf of parents and our community, and strive to build interpersonal, school, and community connections so that every student feels valued and safe,

We, the Board of the Addison Central School District, declare it resolved that our elected officials in the Vermont House and Senate must pass common-sense gun violence prevention legislation during the 2018 legislative session, and that Governor Scott must sign such legislation into law to take effect immediately.

Four relevant pieces of legislation are currently before the VT House or VT Senate: S.6 related to universal background checks; H.422 related to removing guns from the scene of a domestic violence crime; S.221 related to enabling law enforcement officers to get an order to remove guns when a person shows signs of threat and danger; and H. 876 related to prohibiting bump-fire stocks for firearms. We urge careful consideration of these and similar bills.

In addition, we urge the drafting and passage of legislation that has been proposed in previous legislative sessions which would prevent the possession, sale, or manufacture of military-style "assault weapons." Such weapons are commonly used in mass shootings at schools resulting in tragic and widespread devastation and death.

It is long past time when inaction is ethically or morally acceptable. We need you to help us keep our students and schools safe from gun-related violence.

cc: Senators Claire Ayer and Christopher Bray  
Representatives Amy Sheldon, Robin Scheu, Peter Conlon, Terry Norris & Harvey Smith  
Senators Phil Baruth and Becca Balint, Senate Education Committee  
Senators Dick Sears and Joe Benning, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Representatives Dave Sharpe and Albert Pearce, House Education Committee  
Representatives Maxine Grad and Charles Conquest, House Judiciary Committee  
Secretary Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont Agency of Education  
Nicole Mace, Vermont School Boards Association  
Jeff Fannon, Vermont-National Education Association  
Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association