



Resolution in Support of Safe Schools, Senate Bill 73, the Harold M. Metts School Safety Act of 2021 and House Bill 5555, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses-Weapons

WHEREAS, Rhode Island state law allows Concealed Carry Permit (CCP) holders to carry firearms onto school grounds; and

WHEREAS, forty-three (43) states and the District of Columbia prohibit CCP holders from carrying firearms onto school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Violence Policy Center, a Washington, D.C.-based gun safety organization, documented 1,522 incidents involving concealed handgun permit holders in 40 states and the District of Columbia from May 2007 to December 2020, that resulted in 1,760 deaths, and described these as “non-self-defense” incidents, including homicides, suicides, mass shootings, and unintentional deaths; and

WHEREAS, the final report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, dated March 2015, made recommendations regarding “Safe School Climate” and “Safe School Design and Operations Strategies” that specifically did not include the use of firearms or the arming of teachers or non-law enforcement civilians in schools; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association believes that students must have “safe and supportive climates and learning environments that support their opportunities to learn and that are free of abuse, violence, bullying, weapons, and harmful substances including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs”; and

WHEREAS, AASA, the national School Superintendents Association published the “AASA Position Paper on School Safety: A Response to the Tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary,” which specifically denounces “efforts to bring more guns into our schools by teachers and administrators,” and states that “schools remain the safest place for children”; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP) Executive Board members have endorsed and supported the ban on concealed weapons on school grounds, except for authorized members of law enforcement, holding to RIASP’s core belief that school environments should be devoid of all conditions that may compromise the safety of students and staff; and

WHEREAS, Providence Public School District has carefully considered and implemented regularly audited school and district-wide building safety plans and emergency protocols inclusive of first-responders, local law enforcement, and the school community; and

WHEREAS, the Providence School Board has consistently supported legislative efforts to prohibit concealed firearms on school grounds, and emphatically expresses support for Senate Bill 73 and House Bill 5555, which will greatly increase the safety of our students, faculty and staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Providence School Board respectfully requests that

the Rhode Island Senate and the House of Representatives approve SB 73 and HB 5555, respectively, and any and all legislative proposals prohibiting individuals from carrying concealed firearms onto school grounds, other than members of law enforcement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval, copies of this resolution be delivered to President of the Senate Dominick Ruggerio, Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Cynthia Coyne, Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi, House Judiciary Committee Chair Robert E. Craven, Sr. and Providence representatives and senators.

Presented this _____ day of _____
(Month, Year)

President Nicholas J. Hemond

Clerk

Date Approved: _____