

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

Okemos Public Schools, Michigan (the “District”)

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District was held in the Community Conference Room in the District, on the 27th day of November, 2017, at __7__o’clock in the evening.

The meeting was called to order by Melanie Lynn, President.

Present: Members Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf

Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Amy Crites and supported by Member Dean Bolton.

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 weapons in schools is not a solution and places more people in harm’s way, including our students, staff and visitors; and

Whereas, SB 586 would not allow a district to set policies regarding weapons 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 weapons 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 concealed pistol license holder and who is the active shooter; and

Whereas any weapon on school property can disrupt the educational process for the school community; and

Whereas the Okemos Board of Education has active policies prohibiting persons from possessing, carrying, or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the district, including those persons with a concealed weapons license (Policy 1119/4119); and

Whereas the **Board of Education of Okemos Public Schools** believes the only people who should have guns on school property should be sworn law enforcement personnel or those persons who are expressly permitted by law to carry or possess weapons;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Board of Education of Okemos Public Schools 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 Governor Rick Snyder and the district's State Representatives and Senators.

Ayes: Members Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Okemos Public Schools, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting held on November 27, 2017, original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Secretary, Board of Education