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RESOLUTION: Arming School Teachers

WHEREAS, teachers are not trained to be law enforcement officers and the State of Arizona and Local School Districts do not have the money or resources to provide proper training, and

WHEREAS, it would be extremely difficult for law enforcement officers to determine who was legally armed during a crisis, and

WHEREAS, accuracy, when firing a gun, is reduced during periods of high stress, and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of teachers should be to protect those students in their classrooms, not to get involved in a shooting incident and,

WHEREAS, other safety measure, including metal detectors, locked door access, and bag checks should be used to keep students and staff safe, and

WHEREAS, since 2013, there have been 291 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school and college campuses in the United States which averages to about one per week, 1 and 168 of those shootings were at K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, teachers carrying guns could be overpowered by a student or a group of students, and the weapons could fall into the wrong hands, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Arizona PTA and its constituent associations supports the employment of armed highly trained and certified professionals, including School Resource Officers (SROs), as the only armed personnel to aid in the safety of our students, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Arizona PTA and it constituent associations urge Law Enforcement to work with local schools to evaluate current security and make suggestions on improvements that can be taken , and be it further

RESOLVED that the Arizona PTA and its constituent associations encourage local policy makers to support policies that increase the number of counselors and social workers available on school campuses to work with at risk students, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Arizona PTA and its constituent associations encourage policy makers to support legislation to increase school security in ways that do not include arming teachers or bringing in armed volunteers to provide school security.

Resolution adopted June 9, 2018 by the delegates present at General Session 2 of the Arizona PTA State Convention.