

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THOSE PORTIONS OF SENATE BILL 7030 ARMING TEACHERS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the Education Committee of the Florida Senate voted to pass Senate Bill 7030; and,

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 7030 contains provisions to arm public school teachers in Florida; and,

WHEREAS, The Florida Legislature convenes on March 5, 2019, and will consider passage of Senate Bill 7030; and,

WHEREAS, the School Board of Orange County (“Board”) affirms that it is the duty of the Board and Superintendent to ensure that all students receive an education in a safe, secure and supportive environment; and,

WHEREAS, gun violence presents a danger to the students, parents and staff and undermines the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments; and,

WHEREAS, the Board supports law enforcement officers in the role school resource officers at all schools; and,

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that districts may need to use guardians due to a lack of human and financial resources; and,

WHEREAS, students may be able to access a teacher’s gun and an additional safety risk will be created where no risk currently exists; and,

WHEREAS, the Board opposes arming teachers, which would add the expectation of engaging in armed conflict to the job duties of our already overburdened teachers; and,

WHEREAS, arming teachers may complicate law enforcement’s response in situations where there is an active shooter; and,

WHEREAS, the Board supports public policy that would emphasize prevention of gun violence at schools, such as mental health support and hardening of schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Orange County, Florida, that the Board:

- Declares opposition to arm educators in our schools;
- Supports a commitment to additional and flexible state funding for school safety;
- Opposes the passage of Senate Bill 7030 or any other legislation that contains similar language regarding the arming of teachers; and
- That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the School Board of Orange County, Florida, the 12th day of March, 2019.