

## HB 7093 / SB 7030: School Safety

***This bill amends current language to allow teachers to carry concealed weapons into the classroom.***

### What is the purpose of HB 7093 / SB 7030?

- ▶ Florida law currently requires district school boards and superintendents to partner with law enforcement agencies to provide one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district. The state has allocated specific funds for this purpose. A safe-school officer may be a certified law enforcement officer who is employed by either a law enforcement agency or a district school board. The Coach Aaron Feis Guardian program, established in response to last year's Margery Stoneman High School shooting, allows school employees to become "school guardians." School guardians may carry concealed weapons on school campus after they have completed a training program, providing that they are not exclusively classroom teachers.
- ▶ The bill implements the latest recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission school including expanding school safety programs and greater coordination of information.
- ▶ The bill redefines the term school guardians to allow teachers to carry firearms in the classroom.
- ▶ The bill expands the current law to include charter schools, and to allow private schools the option of hiring school guardians.
- ▶ The bill requires mental health intervention for students identified as a possible threat.

### How would HB 7093 / SB 7030 work?

- ▶ Each school system is allowed to expand school guardian positions to include classroom teachers.
- ▶ Teachers may apply to become school guardians and must comply with all training requirements of that position including before they may carry a firearm in the classroom.
- ▶ The bill establishes threat assessment teams within public and charter schools that includes a mental health professional, and is responsible for identifying and reporting on potential threats.
- ▶ The bill increases information sharing among schools and districts by requiring schools to transfer student records, including mental and behavioral records maintained by the school.
- ▶ The bill allows more education funding to shift to "harden" schools. It will allow critical funds allocated for other purposes including exceptional education services, supplemental academic instruction, classroom technology, and class-size reduction to be used for school security, like surveillance, guns, and metal detectors.

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### **What do people say about HB 7093 / SB 7030 work?**

- ▶ Kirk Bailey, Political director at ACLU Florida said, "We urge state lawmakers to reject this bill. Florida policy makers continue to prioritize policing over supporting students. At a time when schools are struggling to meet basic educational needs and youth face an unprecedented risk of suicide, this bill would allow more education funding to shift to hardening schools and set the groundwork for more invasive intrusions into student privacy."
- ▶ According to the Florida Education Association, "Legislators must stop looking for quick, inexpensive fixes. To truly make our students and staff safer, lawmakers should invest money in ensuring every school has a resource officer and a sufficient number of trained mental health professionals such as guidance counsellors, school psychologists and social workers."
- ▶ A Quinnipiac University Poll states that:
  - ▶ 57% of Florida voters oppose allowing trained teachers and school officials to carry guns on school grounds.
  - ▶ 58% of voters say stricter gun laws would do more to reduce gun violence in schools, and believe that Florida would be less safe if more people carried guns.
- ▶ As mental health professionals, social workers support increased funding and requirements for mental health assistance in Florida schools.
- ▶ NASW has a long history of supporting gun control and opposes the expansive use of weapons in the United States.
- ▶ We strongly oppose guns in the classroom, and the "hardening" of education

**Vote NO on HB 7093 / SB 7030!**