

WHEREAS, Each year, over 35,000 Americans die from gun violence, over 85,000 are injured (Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence), in Oregon from 2010-2014 there were 2,280 firearms related fatalities, an average of 456 per year (Oregon.gov: Oregon Health Authority);

WHEREAS, According to a recent article in the New York Times (3/1/2018), ten states currently allow school staff members to have access to firearms and additional states are considering this option;

WHEREAS, The POTUS has publicly called for arming teachers as an alleged method to reduce mass shootings in schools nationwide;

WHEREAS, Research has shown (Berkowicz & LePage, 1967) that the presence of weapons in the classroom increases the number of incidents of aggressive behavior in the classroom and has negative impacts on the intensity and frequency of discipline measures;

WHEREAS, Research also suggests (Hemenway, Vriniotis, & Miller, 2006) that the presence of guns in the classroom may lead to more aggressive behavior by staff carrying firearms; and

WHEREAS, To counter a shooter wielding a weapon, a teacher with a gun would be at great danger of being injured and killed and could be in danger of being mistaken as an additional shooter by responding police; a 2013 FBI (Scientific American, 2/28/2018) report concluded that firing on an active shooter results in death to the responder in about 50% of the situations;

THEREFORE, We the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) of Oregon, Resolve as follows:

1. The WCDCC opposes the idea of arming any school staff, or keeping arms on school property, anywhere in Oregon;
2. We ask that teachers unions, school employee unions, and parent-teacher organizations support this resolution to oppose the weaponization of schools at all levels throughout Oregon;
3. We call on Washington County legislators and state legislators to support legislation that would reduce or eliminate the presence of weapons in schools and the classrooms in Oregon, (allowing only authorized law enforcement to have weapons when required for safety situations); and
4. We call on our US Congressional delegation to oppose national legislation that would result in the weaponization of schools in the US.

*Resolution submitted by Lisa Stiller, R&PC Member – May 3, 2018*

*Approved by R&PC – May 3, 2018*

*Adopted by WCDCC – May 23, 2018*