



Resolution on Gun Violence Prevention

Whereas, more than 150,000 students attending more than 170 primary and secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999[i];

Whereas, from Columbine to Virginia Tech to Sandy Hook to Parkland, the lives of hundreds of students and school employees have been lost to the plague of gun violence[ii];

Whereas, among high-income nations, 91 percent of children (under 15 years old) and 92 percent of youth (between 15 and 24 years old) who have been killed by bullets lived in the United States[iii];

Whereas, nearly two dozen children are shot every day on average[iv] and more than 22 million children live in homes with a firearm in the United States[v];

Whereas, the Charlottesville City School Board believes that the health and safety of our students and employees is our highest priority and that they will thrive in a vibrant, healthful, safe, enriching, and respectful environment[vi];

Whereas, the Charlottesville City School Board has prioritized improving mental health supports and safety precautions to prevent gun violence incidents from occurring; and

Whereas the responsibility for preventing gun violence incidents cannot be relegated to school districts alone;

Therefore be it resolved that the Charlottesville City School Board calls upon the United States Congress and state legislatures, including the Virginia General Assembly, to prioritize the protection of students and school system employees by passing legislation that more effectively regulates access to firearms in the interest of public safety, funds public-health research on firearms-related issues, and advances mental health supports.

- [i] Rozsa, Lori et al. (2018, February 15). "A horrific, horrific day': At least 17 killed in Florida school shooting. The Washington Post. Retrieved from www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2018/02/14/school-shooting-reported-at-florida-high-school/.
- [ii] Gun Violence Archive. Retrieved from www.gunviolencearchive.org/.
- [iii] Grinshteyn, Erin, and Hemenway, David. (2016). Violent Death Rates: The United States Compared to Other High-Income OECD Countries. The American Journal of Medicine, Volume 129 (Issue 3). Retrieved from www.amjmed.com/pb/assets/raw/Health%20Advance/journals/ajm/AJM_Mar16_PR_Grinshteyn.pdf.
- [iv] Cox, John Woodrow. (2017, September 15). Children under fire. The Washington Post. Retrieved from www.washingtonpost.com/sf/local/2017/09/15/road-rage-a-bullet-to-the-head-and-the-frantic-effort-to-save-a-4-year-old/.
- [v] Schuster, Mark A. et al. (2000). Firearm Storage Patterns in US Homes With Children. American Journal of Public Health. Volume 90 (Number 4). Retrieved from www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/reprints/2005/RAND_RP890.pdf.
- [vi] FCPS Beliefs, Mission and Vision. Retrieved from www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/beliefs-mission-vision.