Guns in Schools: A Dangerous Proposal

☐ NRA Guns in All Schools Proposal: The NRA’s so-called “School Shield” program aims to place armed guards in schools across the country.
  o Good Guys With Guns: The proposal was a follow up to NRA President Wayne LaPierre’s argument that “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.”

☐ Why the NRA’s Proposal is Dangerous
  o Increased Risk of Accidental Shooting: Intentionally bringing more guns to schools makes an accidental shooting more likely. Here are some examples:
    ▪ An East Texas school maintenance worker was accidentally shot during a district-sponsored handgun safety class.¹
    ▪ Two people were accidentally wounded after a pistol accidentally discharged at a south Kansas high school graduation ceremony.²
  o Armed Guards Can’t Prevent Shootings: We have only to recall the horror and tragedies of Columbine and Virginia Tech to know that armed guards on site don’t prevent school shootings.
  o Schools Should Not Become Like Prisons. Parents do not want their children's schools turned into fortresses or prisons. They do not want 5-year-olds walking past a man with a gun just to get to their kindergarten class.
  o No Insurance Coverage for Schools with Guns. Insurance companies recognizing the increased risk accompanying the NRA’s proposal are increasing insurance premiums or declining coverage altogether for schools that allow teachers to carry guns.

☐ More Guns in Schools Are Not the Answer: Gun Violence Prevention Is
  o Legislation to Prevent Gun Violence: Legislation pending in Congress aims to prevent gun violence, not react to it, and will help keep our students and their learning environments safe by:
    ▪ Requiring background checks for all gun sales. Ironically, the NRA proposes that armed guards undergo background checks—even though it opposes them for gun shows and Internet sales.
    ▪ Ensuring that missing records of prohibited gun purchasers make it into the background check system.
    ▪ Cracking down on gun trafficking. Thanks to New York’s strong firearms laws, New York exports crime guns at a rate less than one-sixth the national average of 19.4%, making the state an uncommon source of crime guns used in other states.³
    ▪ Enhancing school safety by taking meaningful action on gun violence prevention including education, increasing access to mental health services and providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

☐ Support for Common Sense Gun Violence Prevention Legislation:
  o Public Support: Overwhelming majorities of Americans—Americans who believe in the Second Amendment—support common-sense legislation to help prevent gun violence.

² http://ksn.com/2016/05/15/two-injured-in-accidental-shooting-at-augusta-high-school-graduation/

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