

**School Committee Resolution
On Gun Free Schools**

WHEREAS: Current state law allows Concealed Carry Permit ("CCP") holders to carry firearms onto school grounds; and

WHEREAS: The vast majority of states do not permit firearms on school grounds; and

WHEREAS: A study by the Violence Policy Center, a Washington D.C. gun safety organization, found, from May 2007 to February 2015, that in research involving 722 deaths in 544 concealed-carry shootings in 36 states and the District of Columbia, the vast majority of those killings were deemed non-self-defense and only 16 cases were eventually ruled lawful self-defense; and

WHEREAS: A two year comprehensive Final Report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, consisting of school administrators, teachers, law enforcement, psychiatrists, lawmakers and legal professionals, dated February 2015, made findings including "Safe School Climate" and "Safe School Design and Operations Strategies" that specifically did not include the use of firearms or the of arming teachers or non-law enforcement civilians in schools; and

WHEREAS: The National School Boards Association believes that students must have safe and supportive climates and learning environments that support their opportunities to learn and that are free of abuse, violence, bullying, weapons, and harmful substances including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and

WHEREAS: The Rhode Island Association of School Committees' Executive Board have voted to support banning concealed weapons on school grounds, except for duly authorized members of law enforcement;

WHEREAS: The Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association has adopted the School Superintendents Association "AASA Position Paper on School Safety: A response to the Tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary," which specifically denounces "efforts to bring more guns into our schools by teachers and administrators," and reminds us that "schools remain the safest place for children"; and

WHEREAS: The Rhode Island Association of School Principals Executive Board has voted to endorse and support the ban on concealed weapons on school grounds, except for authorized members of law enforcement, holding to its core belief that school environments should be devoid of all conditions that may compromise the safety of students and staff;

WHEREAS: The Rhode Island Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals (RIFTHP) supports banning concealed weapons on school grounds, except for duly authorized members of law enforcement;

WHEREAS: Rhode Island education leadership has carefully considered and implemented regularly audited school and district-wide building safety plans and emergency protocols inclusive of first-responders, local law enforcement, and the school community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Barrington School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to support 2017 - H 5345, 2017 - S0187, and any and all legislative proposals that would disallow non-law enforcement to carry concealed firearms onto school grounds.

WHEREBY: The following bear witness:

[Signature]
Vice-Chairperson

[Signature]
Clerk Superintendent

[Signature]
Introduced by

[Signature]
Passed (Date)