



June 17, 2022

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Minority Whip
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
House Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

We, the undersigned state leaders of the American Association of Christian Schools write to you on behalf of the nearly 700 schools and church ministries represented by our association requesting that you take action to repeal the Gun Free School Zones Act of 1990. From its beginning, this federal law has been misguided in its attempt to prevent the tragedy of school shootings and is unconstitutional in its regulation of private K–12 schools. This law has deprived the concerned pastors, administrators, parents, and teachers of First Amendment rights of religious assembly as well as the Second Amendment rights to arm themselves for the protection of their students.

We grieve with our countrymen over the loss of life in each school shooting, but we observe that in every case these shootings have been stopped by others who use a gun to protect students. Depriving the good citizens who come together in private school communities of their God-given rights to self-defense only makes them easier prey for those with evil intent.

We hear much talk about “common sense gun control,” but experience has shown us that these words are often merely a pretext for the continuing attempt by those who do not honor our Constitution to disarm law-abiding citizens and to prevent the use of their natural right to self-protection. We understand the desire to “Do something!” after the shock of these horrendous attacks, but reactionary solutions like the ones reportedly being discussed in the Senate will not make schools safer and may worsen the problem by stigmatizing mental health and penalizing gun ownership.

What will make our schools safer is the freedom to find solutions for our unique circumstances including arming school personnel and teachers. We note with interest that states allowing guns in schools are extremely safe. According to Dr. John Lott, “Twenty states currently allow teachers and staff to carry guns to varying degrees on school property, so we don’t need to guess how the policy would work. There has yet to be a single case of someone being wounded or killed from a shooting, let alone a mass public shooting, between 6 AM and midnight at a school that lets teachers carry guns.”¹

Since the law's passage, twenty-five states have passed constitutional carry laws; but in these states, many are still prohibited from exercising this right on our private school campuses. So, we ask you to repeal the federal prohibition which prevents schools from exercising their own best judgments on arming school personnel. We ask you to return these decisions to local and state legislatures and to the local constituents most affected by these decisions. This is a solution that is in the best interests of our school communities and will be an action you can take that allows us to provide the safety and security we all desire for our school children.

Respectfully,

The State Leaders of the American Association of Christian Schools

Pastor Richard D. Callahan, President
Dr. Joe Haas, Executive Director
North Carolina Christian School Association



Dr. Joe Haas
President, Freedom to Learn



Dan Mauldin, D.D., President
Brian Gottschall, Executive Director
New Mexico Association of Christian schools



Pastor Douglas B. Wright, President
Dan Zacharias, Executive Director
Old Dominion Association of Church Schools



Pastor Robert J. Kurtz, President
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Dr. Timothy Schmig, Executive Director
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David Brock, President
Shannon Steuerwald, Executive Director
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Edward Earwood, Executive Director
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Bryan Wilson, Executive Director
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Seth Robinson, President
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Bob Loggans, President
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Randy Scallions, Executive Director
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Pastor David Perdue, President
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Jack Herbert, President
Kansas Association of Christian Schools

Jonathan Smith, President
Iowa Chapter of the AACs

¹Lott, John R. Schools that Allow Teachers to Carry Guns are Extremely Safe: Data on the Rate of Shootings and Accidents in Schools that allow Teachers to Carry (April 25, 2019). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3377801> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3377801>