

**Resolution  
of the Mexican American School Boards Association  
on the Need to Address Gun Violence in Our Public Schools**

WHEREAS, the Mexican American School Boards Association is interested in the future success of all Texas public school students; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the trustees of our Texas public schools to express their positions on school safety matters that affect their students and all children residing in their districts; and

WHEREAS, thousands of students throughout Texas and throughout the United States have publicly expressed concern for their safety and well-being while at school, and have indicated that policymakers should act immediately to protect them in school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the trustees of our Texas public schools respect the concerns of their students, and support the growing civic and social participation of students that was inspired by recent events; and

WHEREAS, there have been far too many school shootings that have taken the lives of our public school students and those who care for them, including the acts of gun violence that have claimed 142 lives in public schools in Columbine, Colorado (1999); Flint, Michigan (2000); Lake Worth, Florida (2000); Santee, California (2001); Gary, Indiana (2001); Milwaukee, Wisconsin (2002); New Orleans, Louisiana (2003); Red Lion, Pennsylvania (2003); Cold Spring, Minnesota (2003); Dover, Tennessee (2005); Red Lake, Minnesota (2005); Jacksboro, Tennessee (2005); Essex Junction, Vermont (2006); Bailey, Colorado (2006); Cazenovia, Wisconsin (2006); Tacoma, Washington (2007); Oxnard, California (2008); Federal Way, Washington (2008); Knoxville, Tennessee (2008); Detroit, Michigan (2008); Fort Lauderdale, Florida (2008); Larose, Louisiana (2009); Salinas, California (2010); Marinette, Wisconsin (2010); Omaha, Nebraska (2011); Houston, Texas (2011); Chardon, Ohio (2012); Newtown, Connecticut (2012); Sardis, Mississippi (2013); Sparks, Nevada (2013); Centennial, Colorado (2013); Detroit, Michigan (2014); Troutdale, Oregon (2014); Fairburn, Georgia (2014); Marysville, Washington (2014); Miami, Florida (2014); Merced, California (2015); North Las Vegas, Nevada (2015); Glendale, Arizona (2016); Antigo, Wisconsin (2016); Dorchester, Massachusetts (2016); Alpine, Texas (2016); Townville, South Carolina (2016); San Bernardino, California (2017); Rockford, Washington (2017); Rancho Tehama Reserve, California (2017); Aztec, New Mexico (2013); Marshall County, Kentucky (2018); Parkland, Florida (2018); and Birmingham, Alabama (2018); and

WHEREAS, in addition to these casualties, far more students and adults have been injured by gun violence in our public schools, including 136 students and adults injured in the aforementioned shootings, as well as more than 130 students and adults injured in more than 80 other non-fatal public school shootings throughout the nation since Columbine; and

WHEREAS, all U.S. educational settings have suffered from gun violence—including private schools, charter schools, and colleges and universities—and the students of these settings, like the students of our Texas public schools, also live with the fear of such violent acts occurring in their schools; and

WHEREAS, assault weapons have no place in society, and other types of guns are too easily obtained; and

WHEREAS, some 32 to 36% of Americans own a gun, and federal legislators have refused to meaningfully address gun control and ownership issues so as to prevent school shootings from happening in the future; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of all Texas voters own a gun, and Texas legislators have refused to meaningfully address gun control and ownership issues so as to prevent school shootings from happening in the future; and

WHEREAS, teachers are not trained law enforcement officers, and should not be asked or incentivized to keep weapons accessible in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, there is no reason based on any viable research to suggest that adding guns into a school setting or arming teachers would prevent these acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, schools across the country need considerable additional resources to plan for the possibility of such acts of violence, to coordinate with law enforcement, and to secure their buildings from intruders; and

WHEREAS, many schools lack the mental health counselors, psychologists, and social workers they need to identify and work with students exhibiting warning signs for mental health issues that could lead to aggression and violent behavior; and

WHEREAS, the multiple school shootings that we have witnessed during recent years have complex causes, requiring multiple solutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association stands with all students and adults who demand effective and comprehensive action to protect the students of our Texas public schools from gun violence; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association is opposed to the arming of teachers to protect schools and children; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association stands in solidarity with all who demand that the Congress of the United States ban the manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, and use of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition cartridges, except those needed by the military and law enforcement; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Congress of the United States to require that states and the federal government collect whatever data necessary to track, monitor, understand, and prevent the extent of gun violence in America; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Texas Legislature to require the state government to collect whatever data necessary to track, monitor, understand, and prevent the extent of gun violence in Texas; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Congress of the United States and on the Texas Legislature to require and strengthen universal background checks to possess any type of firearm; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Congress of the United States and on the Texas Legislature to appropriate adequate new funds to allow school districts to plan and coordinate school security efforts with law enforcement officials and make other building alterations that may be necessary to protect students, teachers, and staff; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Congress of the United States and on the Texas Legislature to appropriate adequate new funds to increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, and social workers in our schools; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Congress of the United States and on the Texas Legislature to appropriate adequate new funds for programs to educate students and their families on the dangers of firearms; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Congress of the United States and on the Texas Legislature to extend the perimeter of Gun-Free School Zones; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the President of the United States to charge all agencies of the federal government with the task of reducing the number of gun-related injuries and deaths in America, and that the Mexican American School Boards Association calls on the Governor of the State of Texas to charge all agencies of the state government with the task of reducing the number of gun-related injuries and deaths in Texas.

Passed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2018.

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Homero Garcia, President

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Willie Tenorio, Jr., Acting Secretary