



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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December 16, 2012

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Gov. Snyder:

On behalf of the 1.5 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, including the 35,000 members of AFT Michigan, we ask you to veto Senate Bill 59, which would rewrite Michigan's gun laws to permit persons to bring concealed firearms into schools, college dorms, churches, hospitals, bars and sports stadiums.

Firearms have absolutely no place in our schools—the Dec. 14, 2012, tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., is a chilling and heartbreaking reminder of this. Twenty innocent young children have been robbed of their lives, many shot multiple times. Six public servants, who were trying to save these children, were murdered in an environment that should be considered a safe sanctuary for students, educators and school visitors. We've witnessed other horrendous tragedies in our lifetime involving gunfire at schools and universities with devastating consequences—32 innocent people cut down at Virginia Tech, 16 murdered at the University of Texas at Austin, and 13 students and faculty executed at Columbine High School.

Permitting firearms in schools—visible or concealed—enables a dangerous set of circumstances that can result in similar tragic outcomes. We should be doing everything we can to reduce the possibility of any gunfire in schools, and concentrate on ways to keep all guns off school property and ensure the safety of children and school employees.

Gov. Snyder, please show the kind of leadership that students, families, educators and community members need to be as safe as possible in their schools. You can set an example for Michigan and the nation by taking this small but significant step to reduce gun violence by vetoing S.B. 59.

Sincerely,

Randi Weingarten, President
American Federation of Teachers

David Hecker, President
AFT Michigan

