AFT Faculty Guild 1521 Resolution

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SCHOOL SAFETY

WHEREAS, all students deserve safe, welcoming, supportive educational environments where they can learn and thrive without fear; and

WHEREAS, no academic faculty, professional faculty, staff, or student in an institution of higher education should fear for their lives or be victimized by gun violence while attending class or living the life of the academy; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the mass murderers at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., we said, “never again,” yet there have been 239 school shootings since Newtown, with 438 people shot and 138 murdered. On February 14, 2018 17 students, teachers and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL lost their lives.; and even more recently, at Central Michigan University two more lives were lost to another school shooting; and

WHEREAS, the mass murder of students, teachers and staff at Stoneman Douglas High School was committed using a legally purchased AR-15—the same weapon used in mass murders in Newtown, CT; Aurora, CO; Orlando, FL; San Bernardino, CA; Sutherland Springs, TX; Las Vegas, NV; and more; and

WHEREAS, the National Rifle Association has stood in our way, using money and threats and influence to fight every commonsense reform of gun laws as an assault on the Second Amendment rather than as a means to ensure the safety of Americans, while also shielding gun manufacturers from all legal liability related to the sale or use of their products; and

WHEREAS, the LACCD/District has not equipped all classrooms with a simple yet effective way to be locked from the inside in the event of a shooter on campus, despite the repeated requests by faculty to do so; and

WHEREAS, the LACCD Chancellor letter from March 7, 2018, states that the District’s “foremost priority is to ensure your safety and well-being. We can and will do more to ensure that everyone who walks through our doors is safe and free from violence.”

RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, AFT 1521, will recommit ourselves to common sense measures including calling for a national ban on assault weapons to stop gun violence in schools and institutions of higher education, while also opposing counterproductive ideas like arming faculty and staff; and
RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, AFT 1521, demands that the LACCD Board of Trustees allocates resources immediately to install inside door locking capabilities in all classrooms and instructional areas in our District; and

RESOLVED, that the LACCD Board immediately adopts a unique alarm system specifically identified to inform all college constituencies about the presence of a shooter on campus; and

RESOLVED, that campus drills testing this alarm system specifically identified to announce the presence of a shooter on campus be included in safety drills on all college campuses; and

RESOLVED, that once the installation of locks in all classrooms and instructional areas has taken place, a District-wide taskforce be established to identify other areas of safety needs and priorities for the safety of our students, faculty, and staff at our LACCD campuses.