



FADSS

Florida Association of
District School Superintendents

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Florida Association of District School Superintendents

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol, Plaza Level 05
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

Your efforts for the families of the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy have been remarkable and appreciated beyond words I can express. The resources and efforts you have put forth have enabled us to respond to the needs of everyone involved, including the community as a whole. It is in that vain that I must ask for your assistance again as President of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

Florida superintendents recognize and appreciate the additional dollars allocated to fund needed safety measures in Florida's public schools. However the funding mechanism is flawed when dollars are restricted to certain types of law enforcement officers. Under SB 7026, law enforcement officers are underfunded but arming school personnel through the Marshal Program is overfunded. There will not be enough funding provided in SB 7026, or the pending state budget, to actually fund a law enforcement officer in every school. If SB 7026 is approved as it was enacted, Florida superintendents will be faced with the untenable decision to implement the Marshal Program even if the superintendent, school board, local sheriff, and teachers and parents oppose it.

To that point, Florida superintendents urge consideration of the following action:

- ◆ Veto the Marshal funding in SB 7026 (Section 40 – \$67 million) and direct the Legislature to reallocate the funds to be used at the discretion of the school district for School Resource Officers or the Marshal Program for those districts that desire to implement arming school personnel.

Sincerely,

Robert Runcie
President

cc: Commissioner Pam Stewart
Megan Fay