

Rochester Community PTA Council

Statement on Gun Safety

Unanimously adopted on January 21, 2016

On October 15, 2015, the Rochester Community PTA Council unanimously adopted and released a statement supporting House Bill 4261 and opposing Senate Bill 442 and 561, which would allow concealed firearms to be carried on school grounds by anyone with a license to carry a concealed weapon:

“Rochester Community PTA Council is committed to the safety of all school children. With the exception of law enforcement and school security personnel trained in the use of weapons to protect public safety, it is our firm belief that dangerous weapons, such as hand guns and assault rifles, have no place in schools.

Allowing weapons on school grounds only increases fear on the part of students and staff, and increases the chances of a catastrophic incident.

As such, the Rochester Community PTA Council supports the passage of House Bill 4261, a bill to eliminate the “open-carry” loophole that currently exists in law.

Furthermore, the Rochester Community PTA Council opposes Senate Bill 442 and Senate Bill 561, which will allow concealed firearms to be carried on school grounds by anyone with a license to carry a concealed weapon.”

The Rochester Community PTA Council recognizes that people have a right to own and carry guns, and is cognizant that guns have a place in society, for hunting and sport shooting, as well as for personal and home defense. We know the issue of governing for both gun rights and gun safety is controversial, but we assert that the right of every child in public school to learn in a safe environment supersedes the right to openly carry a firearm on school property.

To that end, and for clarification: the Rochester Community PTA Council still opposes SB 442 and 561, which would allow people with a CPL (Concealed Pistol License) to open-carry weapons in schools, churches, sports arenas and bars.

In addition to opposing these bills, we urge the legislature to strike out the provision in these laws related to schools, specifically, and keep all schools classified as “gun-free zones.”

Furthermore, the Rochester Community PTA Council urges the Michigan legislature to revise the current CPL law and close the “open carry” loophole, by passing House Bill 4261 or issuing and passing new stand-alone legislation.

It is our position that guns belong neither inside school buildings, nor on school property. We believe any gun, in any school setting--whether openly carried or concealed--presents a dangerous security threat and can create an environment of fear and intimidation.