

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN
ITS HANDGUN POLICIES AND IN THE DEFENSE THEREOF**

WHEREAS on March 5, 2015, an individual reportedly in possession of a concealed carry permit (CPL) openly carried his handgun into a Pioneer High School choir concert. <http://tinyurl.com/nxlc2m6>

WHEREAS on March 5, 2015, a Clio Area School District parent [filed suit against the district](#), claiming he was denied access to an elementary school while trying to pick up his daughter because he was openly carrying a pistol. <http://tinyurl.com/psvbbbg>

WHEREAS on March 11, 2015, approximately 26 individuals from an organization called Michigan Open Carry (including the same individual who carried his handgun into the Pioneer High School choir concert) all openly carried handguns to a meeting of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education to discuss the open-carry issue with AAPS trustees. <http://tinyurl.com/q95remu>

WHEREAS on March 18, 2015, the AAPS published a statement that it “will not allow weapons on district property, at events on campus or any school sponsored activities.” <http://tinyurl.com/nry34rg>

WHEREAS on March 25, 2015, the AAPS Board of Education discussed three proposed policies to prohibit the open carry of handguns by CPL holders on school grounds. <http://tinyurl.com/omgvkso>

WHEREAS on April 15, 2015, the AAPS Board of Education adopted three policies banning dangerous weapons, including handguns, from school grounds and outlining the superintendent's ability to close schools, cancel buses or student and staff events before, during and after school in the case of an emergency. <http://tinyurl.com/pecyrrr>

WHEREAS on April 27, 2015, Michigan Gun Owners and Ann Arbor parent Ulysses Wong filed a lawsuit against the Ann Arbor Public Schools and Superintendent Jeanice Swift, asserting that state law preempts the policies adopted by the AAPS on April 15, 2015, and requesting a declaratory judgment expressing the invalidity of the policies and prohibiting the AAPS from preventing CPL holders to carry handguns openly on school grounds. <http://tinyurl.com/pyuddd6>

WHEREAS on August 10, 2015, a Genesee County Circuit Judge ruled that state law preempted the Clio-Area Schools from regulating handguns in schools and that the plaintiff-parent could legally open-carry his pistol inside of his daughter's elementary school. <http://tinyurl.com/q9rdu8w>

WHEREAS on September 23, 2015, a Washtenaw County Circuit Judge ruled that state law does not preempt the AAPS from regulating handguns, because the language of the statute is unambiguous and school districts are not included within the scope of the law's preemption. <http://tinyurl.com/p5ylsmv>

WHEREAS on September 25, 2015, the Clio Area Schools and two individuals appealed the August 10, 2015 ruling of the Genesee County Circuit Court to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

WHEREAS on October 12, 2015, Michigan Gun Owners and Mr. Wong appealed the September 23, 2015 ruling of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

WHEREAS on October 13, 2015, Michigan's State Board of Education voted 7-1 both to support House Bill 4261, proposed legislation that would prohibit CPL holders from carrying handguns in schools, whether open or concealed, and to oppose Senate Bill 442, which would permit handgun owners

possessing CPLs to obtain a non-discretionary exemption permitting them to carry concealed handguns into schools (and other places) and would arguably preempt schools from banning handguns.

<http://tinyurl.com/znt846d>

WHEREAS on October 15, 2015, the Michigan Senate's Judiciary Committee voted favorably on Senate Bill 442.

WHEREAS on October 28, 2015, the AAPS Board of Education passed a resolution urging Governor Snyder to veto Senate Bill 442 if it reached his desk for signature and urging the Michigan legislature to permit schools to exercise local discretion to opt out of any legislation which would permit CPL holders to carry handguns on school grounds. <http://tinyurl.com/qylv63d>

WHEREAS on November 13, 2015, in a case involving the University of Michigan's decision not to issue a campus handgun carry permit to the same individual who open-carried his handgun to the Pioneer choir concert in March of 2015, a Washtenaw County Circuit Judge ruled that state law does not preempt the University of Michigan from regulating handguns, because the relevant statutory language is unambiguous and state universities are not included within the scope of the law's preemption.

<http://tinyurl.com/j5p2wrn>

WHEREAS until Michigan law changes, the decision to ban or permit the carrying of handguns on school property by CPL holders is fundamentally a community decision, not a matter of individual right.

WHEREAS member PTOs support the administration and the Board of Education trustees in their policies and continuing stance in defense of the Michigan Gun Owners' lawsuit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ann Arbor PTO Council through its member PTOs: 1) expresses that the carrying of handguns in schools, open or concealed, through the possession of a CPL permit and waiver only increases the danger to students and is not in their best interests, said best interests outweighing any individual's 2nd Amendment or personal protection rights in this particular setting; 2) supports the Ann Arbor Public Schools, its educators, administrators and trustees, in their current policies concerning the presence of handguns on school property and in their defense of these policies; and 3) thanks them for the leadership they have shown on this core safety issue in the best interests of all the students of the Ann Arbor Public Schools.