



Resolution Calling For State Officials To Ensure Local Law Enforcement Is Maintaining Order At School Board Meetings And Protecting Trustees

WHEREAS, school boards serve on the front lines of democracy, offering more access and greater responsiveness to the public than any other group of elected officials; and

WHEREAS, school board members are accustomed to dealing with sensitive issues and handling public concerns and criticism with a sense of professionalism and empathy; and

WHEREAS, opposition to state mandates, local COVID-19 mitigation measures, ethnic studies curriculum and more has created hostile environments in some local educational agencies; and

WHEREAS, school board members across California have been accosted, verbally abused, physically assaulted, and subjected to death threats or threats of violence against themselves, their family members and their staff during and outside of board meetings; and

WHEREAS, such behavior prevents elected officials from performing the public's business at a time when it has never been more critical; and

WHEREAS, **NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION** has not had similar experiences in recent months and embraces and encourages legal expression of First Amendment rights, **NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION** understands that active attempts to undermine the democratic process through intimidation, threats, violence, and disruption have no place in our communities or board meeting rooms; and

WHEREAS, examples have arisen of school districts contacting local law enforcement authorities to restore order to these meetings or to enforce mask mandates and other safety measures only to be met with officers explicitly stating they will not enforce safety mandates or removing individuals whose actions willfully disrupt a meeting and prevent it from proceeding; and

WHEREAS, **NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION** has only had positive experiences with local law enforcement taking seriously their professional oath to uphold the law, but understands the challenges faced by other trustees; and

WHEREAS, the hostile climate at local board meetings and the reluctance of select law enforcement agencies to fulfill their duties have placed school trustees in unprecedented danger;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing board of the **NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION** respectfully asks that Gov. Gavin Newsom collaborate with California Attorney General Rob Bonta to advise or otherwise urge local law enforcement to uphold public health and safety orders, help maintain order at local school board meetings when requested, and enforce the law as they are sworn to do.

Adopted this _____ day of the month of _____ in 2021.

Motion made by: _____

Second made by: _____

List members voting "aye:" _____

List members voting "no:" _____

List members abstaining: _____

List members not present: _____