

Resolution in Support of Student-Led Movements Against Gun Violence

Submitted to and Adopted by the Body: March 16, 2018

WHEREAS, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (DSC) shares CUNY's historic mission of providing access to higher education to low-income communities and communities of color in New York City and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, since the 1999 mass shooting at Columbine High School, gun violence in U.S. schools has become a recurring trend and topic of contentious debate; and

WHEREAS, this violence has resulted in multiple mass shootings, most notably those at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2007, Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, and, most recently, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February 2018; and

WHEREAS, the measures proposed by various state legislatures to prevent gun violence in schools have placed the onus of responsibility on school administrators and educators to identify potential threats and to protect their students in the event of an active shooter, including proposals in several states to arm teachers; and

WHEREAS, these increased surveillance measures are likely to unfairly target students of color and students with mental health issues who do not pose a threat to their fellow students; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. federal government has failed to implement legislation that restricts the purchase of firearms in the United States, including the assault-style weapons used in the aforementioned incidents of mass shootings; and

WHEREAS, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has immense lobbying power in the United States and has historically prevented legislators from voting in favor of gun control measures; and

WHEREAS, the student activists and survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting have rallied behind a movement to bring effective and comprehensive gun control legislation to the United States;

WHEREAS, in addition to the March for Our Lives scheduled for March 24, 2018, the students have called for a nationwide school walk out on April 20, 2018 in protest of legislative inaction on the issue of gun violence in U.S. schools; and

WHEREAS, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (hereafter, "DSC") represents an organization of students and educators; and

Be it RESOLVED that the DSC endorses the movements organized by students around the issue of gun violence in schools; and

Be it further RESOLVED that the DSC condemns the inaction of the U.S. legislators to effectively ban the sale of assault-style weapons and the role that the NRA plays in U.S. politics; and

Be it still further RESOLVED that the DSC condemns all past, present, and/or future proposals to arm educators at CUNY, or any other educational institution; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED that in solidarity with the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and others organized in the March for Our Lives Movement, the DSC shall postpone its April 2018 plenary meeting, currently scheduled for April 20, until April 27 in observance of the walk-out and protest events scheduled to occur that day.

¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2018/02/14/eighteen-years-of-gun-violence-in-u-s-schools-mapped/?utm_term=.2ec27014c438

<https://everytownresearch.org/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/02/22/587334597/what-decades-of-covering-school-shootings-has-taught-me>

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2017/2017064.pdf>

<https://marchforourlives.com/>

<http://time.com/5165794/student-protests-walkouts-florida-school-shooting/>