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**#NEVERAGAIN: A CALL FOR SCHOOL SAFETY**

**WHEREAS:** On February 14, 2018, seventeen lives were taken at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Fourteen others were injured; and

**WHEREAS:** In the first forty-four days of 2018, prior to the Parkland shooting, there were eighteen school shootings in the U.S., eight of which resulted in an injury or death. In comparison, there have only been eighteen school shootings in the last 20 years in every other country combined; and

**WHEREAS:** Since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999, there have been 239 school shootings affecting 187,000 students. In total, these mass shootings have resulted in 438 injuries and 138 fatalities. These figures fail to capture the devastating emotional and psychological toll gun violence is having on students, teachers and the staff who support their education; and

**WHEREAS:** Even the horrific massacre of very young children at Sandy Hook Elementary School has failed to result in policies that will make our children and our schools safer; and

**WHEREAS:** Nearly every school conducts active-shooter drills in which kids as young as four years old hide from imaginary intruders. Every day, schools are forced into lockdowns even if a threat is a false alarm. Lockdowns in our schools are now the norm; and

**WHEREAS:** No parent should send his or her child to school and fear they may never come home; and

**WHEREAS:** Students, teachers and staff in a school should not fear for their lives or be victimized by gun violence while attending class or going to work; and

**WHEREAS:** Stopping a shooter is not as simple as adding locks, bullet-proof glass, or arming faculty and staff. Schools need better funding to ensure school safety such as more School Resource Officers, mental health professionals, and readiness training for all staff; and

**WHEREAS:** Turning our schools into fortresses and arming teachers and school staff will not cure the epidemic of gun violence in our schools; and

**WHEREAS:** The surviving students at Parkland are not mere victims; they are activists. They are inspiring a student-led American movement: NEVER AGAIN.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Ohio AFL-CIO will follow the courageous lead of the Parkland students and support their clarion call for common sense measures to ensure that our schools are places of learning, not places of violence.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Ohio AFL-CIO supports working closely with professional law enforcement agencies to develop security action plans, investing in capital improvements to control access to facilities and to increase communication capabilities, readiness training for all staff and students, and increasing the presence of School Resource Officers (SROs). These SROs should be integrated within the student community, thereby increasing the likelihood they know students and are not seen solely as a force for discipline.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Ohio AFL-CIO will advocate for increased mental health funding at the federal, state and local levels. Programs to increase both inpatient and outpatient services must be funded, as well as broader investment in the mental health workforce, and efforts to end the stigma of mental illness to promote earlier detection and treatment.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** That in honor of the survivors of school shootings and in the memory of those who have lost their lives, the Ohio AFL-CIO, its central labor councils, will engage in discussions in order to support and advance legislation that will make our schools safer for all who walk through the doors.

**Submitted by: OAPSE/ AFSCME Local 4**