

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 217

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study the risks and benefits of allowing certain school employees to carry concealed firearms on school grounds and to report its findings, including recommendations for changes to state law, to the House of Representatives not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, mass school shootings constitute a matter of grave concern for all Americans; protection of the health and safety of citizens, especially young and vulnerable citizens, is among any government's most solemn obligations, and mass school shootings are a tragic indicator that governance at many levels is not meeting this obligation; and

WHEREAS, the origins of the mass shooting phenomena are as complex as they are deeply embedded in social and cultural realities; no government, the Legislature of Louisiana included, should pursue a quick-fix policy such as attempting to impose unconstitutional restrictions on gun ownership rights; and

WHEREAS, among other policy issues, the state of Louisiana needs to seriously examine the causes of the deterioration of families, churches, social organizations, and other civic institutions, which deterioration leaves individuals without the human relationships and supports that help them withstand the barrage of destructive and violent messages from social media and other sources; and

WHEREAS, more immediately, the state of Louisiana needs to carefully consider whether current policies restricting the possession of guns in schools has the effect of leaving school children in a more vulnerable position vis a vis persons intending to inflict suffering; the legislature has considered changes to such policies in the past and would benefit from expert analysis of the risks and benefits of exceptions to gun-free schools policies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study the risks and benefits of allowing certain school employees to carry concealed firearms on school grounds and to report its findings, including recommendations for changes to state law, to the House of Representatives not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES