



1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García  
*President*

Rebecca S. Pringle  
*Vice President*

Princess R. Moss  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

John C. Stocks  
*Executive Director*

December 6, 2017

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, I urge you to vote NO on the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 (H.R. 38). Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 115th Congress.

H.R. 38 provides that someone licensed to carry a concealed weapon in one state be allowed to do so in *any* state in the union — even those where standards are stricter. In effect, that means the least restrictive standards will prevail. Nineteen states allow a person to carry a concealed gun in public with no training in safe handling; the 12 states with the most lenient laws do not even require a permit, which means a person can carry a loaded, concealed gun in public without a background check. Worst of all from an educator's perspective, H.R. 38 explicitly overrides the federal prohibition on possessing a firearm in a school zone, a provision that could allow an untrained person to carry a loaded gun into a school — potentially, even in states where they cannot purchase a weapon legally.

After the tragic shootings of 26 students and educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School, NEA polled its members and found that they overwhelmingly support strengthening laws to prevent gun violence and keep guns out of schools. Instead, H.R. 38 weakens sensible protections against gun violence where they are strongest.

According to the most comprehensive analysis to date, nearly 1,300 children die and 5,790 are treated for gunshot wounds each year. Gunshot wounds are the second leading cause of injury-related deaths among children under age 18, surpassed only by car accidents. (Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, ["Childhood Firearm Injuries in the United States,"](#) June 2017)

In the wake of the worst mass shooting in modern American history, just two months ago, Congress should be looking at how best to curb gun violence — not forcing states with strong concealed-carry laws to honor permits from states with weak or non-existent concealed-carry laws. On behalf of the students and educators of America, I urge you to vote NO on H.R. 38.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association