



American Federation of
School Administrators
AFSA, AFL-CIO
The National Voice for Education Leaders

President

Diann Woodard

Executive Vice President

Ernest Logan

Secretary-Treasurer

Leonard Pugliese

Vice Presidents

Crystal Boling-Barton

Mark Cannizzaro

Wendi Caporicci

James Dierke

Carver Farrow

Jimmy Gittings

Sandra Inga

Aona Jefferson

Dwayne Jones

Domingo Madera

Gary Maynard

Dominic Sacchetti

Cynthia Warren

Lauran Waters-Cherry

Jane Wermuth

General Counsel

Bruce Bryant

Administration

Paul Wolotsky

Operations /Govt Affairs

Nicholas Spina

Administrative Assistant

Quawanna Thomas

Affiliate Liaison

Doris Reed

Program Director

Florida Woods

Phone

(202) 986-4209

Fax

(202) 986-4211

Email

afsa@AFSAadmin.org

Web

www.AFSAadmin.org

Facebook

/AFSAUnion

Twitter

@AFSAUnion

National Office

1101 17th Street, NW

Suite 408

Washington, DC 20036

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos,

I write to you today with a heavy heart but with resolve. The school shooting in Parkland, Florida has devastated me and the 18,000 principals and school leaders at the American Federation of School Administrators, the organization that I am privileged to represent. Our members know all too well the horror of senseless gun violence in our schools, particularly as we lost one of our own in Newtown, Connecticut. Unlike after Newtown, though, our heartbreak is leavened by hope because Parkland's students are speaking up for change and people are listening.

I appreciate your deep concern about this issue and want to express to you my gratitude for your demand that Congress hold hearings on this issue and for your active participation in last week's listening session with the President. It is clear that you care deeply about finding real solutions to gun violence in our schools, and we could not agree more. Let us come together to work for real solutions to this terrible, terrible problem.

As a first step, AFSA urges you to establish a National Task Force on School Safety, to develop best practices and offer real solutions to schools. We cannot afford to wait for Congress or state legislatures to pass legislation in this area. Let's have a frank conversation with America's parents, educators and students about ways to keep our kids safe.

Further, for this conversation to be useful, AFSA and its members must be part of it. Not only do AFSA's principal and school leader members have the responsibility for creating a safe and secure learning environment for students, they have long experience grappling with building safety issues. Indeed, many of our local affiliates have worked closely with their respective school districts, and have already developed common sense solutions to ensure the safety of their schools. This is the kind of coordination that must be done, and that AFSA will bring to this discussion.

I stand ready and willing to assist in any way. I look forward to hearing from you, and scheduling a meeting as quickly as possible.

On behalf of school leaders, teachers, and children, I thank you for your efforts toward making our nation's public schools as safe as possible.

Sincerely,



Ernest Logan
AFSA Executive Vice President

DW/ns
afsa/afl-cio