**What Can We Do?**

**USE THE PLEDGE TO ORGANIZE!**

The AROS pledge against guns in schools is designed for students, parents and educators to take a personal stand against guns in schools.

However, pledges could also be used to win commitments from local policy-makers! For example:

⏵ If every teacher in a school signed a pledge, students could deliver those pledges to the principal and seek his/her commitment that teachers in your school will not be allowed to carry.

⏵ If educators in a number of schools signed pledges, they could be delivered to a school board, with a demand that the board pass a resolution opposing armed teachers in your district (see below).

⏵ If a statewide effort generates thousands of signed pledges, they could be delivered to state legislatures that are considering—or might consider—changes to your existing state gun laws.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Consider organizing to get your local school board to pass a resolution opposing the arming of teachers. Depending on where you live, state law may require school boards or superintendents to approve of arming teachers. An actual school board resolution, passed last week in Montgomery County, Maryland, is available [here](https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/AX5Q6R67CD60/$file/03.22.18%20Opposing%20Arming%20Class%20Personnel.pdf). Seeking a resolution allows you to organize your members to stand up and speak out about school safety and even contribute to your campaign for community schools! Use the resolution fight to talk about what your schools *really* need!

**SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEVOS COMMISSION!**

President Trump created a Federal Commission on School Safety in March, and appointed Betsy DeVos to chair it. DeVos placed three other cabinet members on the commission: Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. There are no educators, no students and no experts on the commission, which has met twice behind closed doors.

The commission is supposed to generate recommendations for federal action to make schools safer. Yet, also on their agenda is reconsideration of the Obama Administration’s package of guidance around school discipline—which help schools serve students more effectively by providing recommendations and resources to reduce disparities in exclusionary discipline. Secretary DeVos has expressed support for rescinding these guidance documents. The Dignity in Schools Campaign has a useful background sheet about the discipline guidance – available [here](http://dignityinschools.org/resources/federal-school-discipline-guidance-one-pager/).

In response to widespread outrage at both the make-up of the commission and its early meetings being closed to the press, the Department has now hinted that some public forums may be held to get input from students, parents and teachers. AROS will monitor, and spread the word about additional hearings, if they are held.

**In the meantime, the Department has invited individuals to submit recommendations on how to improve school safety to the following email address:** [**safety@ed.gov**](mailto:safety@ed.gov)

Can you organize dozens of short and long responses to be sent to the Department website? Let’s make sure the Secretary hears from real people in real schools!