

Memorandum of **SUPPORT**

S.2451 (Kavanagh) / A.2689 (Simon)

An act to amend the civil practice law and rules and the penal law, in relation to establishing extreme risk protection orders as court-issued orders of protection prohibiting a person from purchasing, possessing or attempting to purchase or possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun

The New York State School Boards Association **supports** the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment.

This bill would enable certain school administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and other school personnel to petition for an extreme risk protection order against an individual they believe may be a threat to him or herself or others. If a plausible case is made and such an order is granted, the individual in question would be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm.

On February 14, 2018, a former student of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida took an Uber to campus, pulled a fire alarm and opened fire indiscriminately at students and staff. There were 17 casualties. Now, this is considered one of the world's deadliest school shootings. In the weeks that followed, schools around the country experienced an uptick in violent threats against schools and their students and, more instances of violence. While many school districts have chosen to respond with greater security measures such as the hiring of school resource officers or the purchasing of metal detectors, preventative measures should be taken as well.

However, despite these preventative measures, individuals who mean our students harm are still able to access firearms legally. One of the best ways we can protect our students is to prevent individuals who mean them harm from accessing firearms and bringing them on to school grounds without authorization.

Therefore, NYSSBA **supports** the above referenced legislation and urges your approval. For additional information, please contact NYSSBA Governmental Relations at 518-783-0200.