

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2025-116(S-1)*, As Amended

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY CALLING ON A**
2 **GREATER PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN STATE OF ALASKA, MUNICIPALITY OF**
3 **ANCHORAGE, ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, ANCHORAGE POLICE**
4 **DEPARTMENT, AND OUR COMMUNITY TO EMPLOY EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-**
5 **BASED, AND PROVEN SOLUTIONS [AT-LARGE] TO KEEP STUDENTS IN OUR**
6 **SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE FROM VIOLENCE.**
7

8 **(NOTE: in this S-1 version, the markup shows changes from the original AR only,*
9 *and does not reflect any of the additions or deletions proposed in the S version.*
10 *Therefore, additions are shown in **underline and bold**, and deletions indicated by*
11 ***[bold, brackets and strike-through]**).*
12

13 **WHEREAS**, as of 2022, Alaska had the fourth highest firearm child mortality rate
14 amongst all fifty states¹; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, from 2018 to 2022 firearms were the leading cause of death for children
17 ages 1-17 in Alaska²; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, in 2023 5.6% of Alaska students and 3.5% of Anchorage students
20 reported having carried a weapon to school on at least one day in the 30 previous
21 days³; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage School District reports that during the 2023-2024 school
24 year it suspending 5 students for possession of a firearm and 64 students for
25 possessing weapon other than a firearm, and in during the 2022-2023 school year
26 suspended 10 students for possession of a firearm and 53 for possession of a
27 weapon other than a firearm⁴; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, a Secret Service study of 41 instances of school violence nationwide,
30 determined that 76% of active shooters had acquired a firearm from the home of a
31 parent or another close relative, and in half of those cases, the firearm was either
32 readily accessible, or it was not secured in a meaningful way⁵; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, according to U.S. Government accountability office, 50% of school
35 shooters are current or former students.
36

¹ See <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/alaska>. Accessed on Jan. 30, 2025.

² *Id.*

³ See ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey – District Survey Results (I2023). Available at <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/yrbs.alaska/viz/AlaskaYRBSDistrictSurveyResults/LandingPage>. Accessed on Jan. 30, 2025.

⁴ See <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/asdk12/viz/BehaviorDashboardPublic/StudentSuspensionover> view

⁵ https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf

1 **WHEREAS**, keeping our community, and especially our youth, safe from the threat
2 of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders, including and
3 especially School Board members, local leaders, lawmakers, community members
4 and parents and should include meaningful support and investment in the
5 health, well-being and empowerment of families and youth most impacted by
6 violence; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 Anchorage School District began partnering the BE SMART
9 campaign to disseminate information about safe storage handguns, offering trigger
10 locks, employing STOPit to allow students to anonymously report bullying,
11 harassment and weapon sightings, and recently piloting the use of mobile metal
12 detectors at middle and high school on a rotating basis; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, despite these efforts Anchorage Police Department reported 5
15 handguns were confiscated at Anchorage schools in both 2023 and 2024, and
16 Anchorage school district reports interception of 65 other deadly weapons; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, a home rule municipality is prohibited from enacting an ordinance that
19 conflicts with state laws listed as limitations on home rule powers⁶; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the authority to regulate firearms and knives has been reserved to the
22 State, except as specifically provided by a statute, so the Municipal government's
23 ability to regulate firearms and knives has been substantially preempted by Alaska
24 Statute (AS) § 29.35.145; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, AS 11.61.210 outlines various offenses related to misconduct involving
27 weapons, including the possession of firearms on school grounds by student; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, without a means to support families through access to safe
30 storage, community-based violence interruption programs, and robust
31 trauma informed care in the wake of incidents,~~[require safe storage, parental~~
32 ~~liability for misconduct of a minor with a weapon, or mandatory reporting of~~
33 ~~lost or stolen weapons]~~ our schools and neighborhoods remain vulnerable to
34 gun violence; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, without adequate funding from the state, the pupil to adult ratio has
37 increased, as counseling positions and nurse positions have been cut. This makes
38 threat assessments less likely to happen even though it is known that most people
39 who commit mass shootings are in crisis and their actions could likely be
40 interrupted~~[likely could be headed off]~~ with intervention.
41

42 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**
43

44 **Section 1.** To show its commitment to student safety by requesting the Anchorage
45 Police Department and Anchorage Health Department partner with the
46 Anchorage School District and its students to create a public education campaign
47 about gun safety~~[,]~~~~[and]~~ with parental ~~[accountability]~~~~[responsibility]~~
48 ~~[and]~~ partnership and to explore the expansion of the threat assessment

⁶ AS 29.10.200; and *Municipality of Anchorage v. Repasky*, 34 P.3d 302, 311 (2001).

measures [Mobile Metal Detectors program] currently being piloted[in-use] at middle schools and high schools.

Section 2. To support the Anchorage Police Department and community organizations in implementing [for] Violence Interruption programs for schools and neighborhoods experiencing increased levels of conflict and ensuring youth mentorship and restorative practices are followed[found to have an increase in conflicts].

Section 3. To implore the state to invest in equitable, community-based school safety strategies, including culturally responsive threat assessment and de-escalation practices and to support our students through the restoration of school funding to provide the American School Counselor Association recommendation of 1 counselor to every 250 students and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation of one full time nurse at each school. We further ask for non-punitive gun legislation that is trauma-informed[,] and focused on education[, and calls on parental accountability][protect our students through common-sense gun legislation].

Section 4. To explore establishment of a Student Safety & Well-Being Council that works alongside the Anchorage Assembly, APD, and ASD to design policies that are effective and inclusive [call on parents to teach gun safety to their children, safely store weapons, and encourage open lines of communication].

Section 5. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 16th day of April, 2025.



Chair

ATTEST:



Municipal Clerk