



Protecting, Leading & Uniting...since 1893

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

2617 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32308
P.O. Box 12519 • Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519

p: (850) 877-2165
f: (850) 878-8665
www.flsheriffs.org  

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

The Honorable Joe Negron
Senate President
409 The Capitol
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-5229

The Honorable Richard Corcoran
Speaker of the House
420 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-5000

Dear Governor Scott, President Negron, and Speaker Corcoran:

Since last month's tragic event at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, sheriffs have been part of the statewide effort to bring forward solutions to keep our students safe. The welfare of our youth has always been a top priority for the sheriffs in Florida. We strongly believe both the House and Senate must pass comprehensive legislation this year to address a wide variety of school safety issues.

Sheriffs fully support having all schools assigned a sworn sheriff's deputy or police officer present on our school campuses. To achieve this end, sheriffs strongly believe the top priority must be additional state funding to ensure schools have a certified law enforcement officer ready to serve as a School Resource Officer (SRO). SRO programs emphasize the importance of collaboration between school officials and local law enforcement by promoting a community-based approach to school violence. Increasing the number of SROs on school campuses will greatly enhance school safety and protect students, teachers, and administrators.

We are in the business of saving lives, and none are more precious than the lives of our children. We believe state funding for SROs is the best way to prevent another tragedy from occurring in our schools. The Florida Legislature must make funding School Resource Officers their top priority.

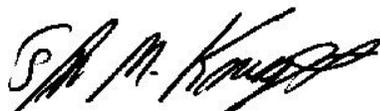
Sincerely,



Sheriff Mike Adkinson
President, Florida Sheriffs Association
Walton County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Legislative Chair, Florida Sheriffs Association
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Tom Knight
Chair, Board of Directors
Sarasota Sheriff's Office