



**IDAHO  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION**

Idaho Education Association  
Board of Directors  
620 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

February 1, 2024

Members of the Idaho Senate  
Idaho State Capitol  
700 W. Jefferson Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Dear Senators,

We, the Board of Directors of the Idaho Education Association, representing thousands of educators across all of Idaho, express our profound concern over House Bill 415, which proposes allowing school employees and volunteers to carry firearms on school property with minimal oversight. As representatives of Idaho's educators and staunch advocates for the welfare of our students, we firmly believe that providing a safe and secure learning environment is paramount.

House Bill 415, in its current form, undermines this fundamental principle and jeopardizes the very essence of our educational institutions. Allowing school employees to carry firearms without comprehensive training and oversight could potentially lead to accidental or unintended incidents that put students at risk. The safety of our children should always be our top priority.

The IEA advocates for restricting firearms to be solely in the possession of state and local law enforcement officers or district employees who have received proper training and authorization from their locally elected school board. We have heard from parents, students, and community members who share our concerns and believe this bill could have far-reaching negative consequences for the health and well-being of Idaho students.

We urge you to reconsider the implications of House Bill 415 and to prioritize the safety and well-being of our students and educators above all else. Alternative solutions that do not involve arming school employees can be explored to address any concerns related to school safety. The status quo adequately meets the school district and community needs to keep students safe.



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We are ready and willing to engage in a constructive dialogue to find solutions that will genuinely enhance the security of our schools while maintaining a nurturing and conducive learning environment for all Idaho students.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



**Layne McInnelly**  
President, Idaho Education Association

For the IEA Board of Directors:

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