



New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Bill # **S 7874** Kaminsky No same as

Title: Limits educational institution's ability to authorize the possession of a weapon on school grounds to certain officers or agents of a law enforcement agency.

This legislation would mandate that no educational institution issue written authorization to possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun to any person who is not primarily employed as a school resource officer, law enforcement officer, or security guard.

Justification:

The stated purpose of this bill is to prevent educational institutions from authorizing the possession of firearms by any staff member or other person who is not employed as a security officer for the purpose of providing security. The issue of arming educators for security purposes is outside of the purview of the Council and we take no position on it.

However, this proposal, as drafted, would override the authority of the institution to permit the possession of firearms in or upon the buildings or grounds of the institution for educational, recreational or any other lawful purposes. This we do oppose.

Among the activities that would be prohibited:

- Academic use for historical education, scientific research or technical instruction
- Competitive and recreational shooting programs
- Hunter safety training classes
- Inclusion in museum collections
- Veterans color guards and salutes

This legislation is unnecessary. Under existing statutes, the administration of each institution has the authority to control the possession and use of firearms on its grounds and there is no evidence that this authority is not adequate for maintaining staff and student safety nor is there any evidence of abuse that would warrant new legislation.

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