



A Letter to the NABT Community: NABT Statement on Gun Violence in Classrooms

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the first bipartisan gun legislation that has been proposed in decades. S. 2938, also known as the “Safer Communities Act,” includes several school-focused investments for early intervention programs, campus-based mental health and supportive services, funding through Title IV-A, and school safety programs.

As an association of biology teachers, we experience the toll school-based gun violence is taking on our members, our students, and our classrooms. The National Association of Biology Teachers publicly supports any legislative measures that help make our classrooms safer.

NABT's mission is to empower educators to provide the best biology and life science education for all students. Effective teaching and learning cannot occur if students and their teachers do not feel safe in their classrooms. Planning, preparing, and the anticipation of violence contribute to the mounting stress that teachers and students currently face. We are hopeful that the resources provided by the *Safer Communities Act* will better protect learning spaces around the country.

We appreciate that there are complex social and political underpinnings surrounding the issue of gun violence. We must also acknowledge that school-based gun violence is a public health issue that is only beginning to be properly researched by institutions like the CDC and NIH. NABT will continue to advocate for our members in support of policy decisions informed by data and best practices that create and maintain safe teaching and learning spaces.

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NABT President, 2022

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Approved by the NABT Board of Directors, December 13, 2022