



March 21, 2017

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Chairman
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 424 (McCarty) Possession of a firearm in a school zone
Position: Oppose

Dear Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) regrets that it must oppose AB 424 by Assemblymember McCarty, as introduced. The bill will remove the authority of local education officials to decide whether anyone should be allowed to possess a firearm on school grounds.

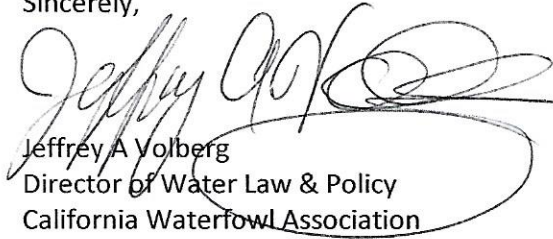
There has been no evidence or incidents that school children or personnel have ever been put in harm's way due to officials having this discretion. SB 707 (Wolk – Chapter 766, Statutes of 2015), a bill that amended the Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995, continued to permit school officials to grant permission to carry a firearm on campus to certain individuals. Senator Wolk noted that the responsibility to make such decisions properly belongs to those officials who are responsible for the safety of their students and staff. AB 424 would take away this authority, although there is no evidence to show that the authority is misplaced or has led to any threat of harm to any students or staff.

The authority to allow the possession of firearms on school grounds is necessary to continue many after-school programs such as Hunter Education classes that are sponsored by the state of California, Scholastic Shooting Clays, and ROTC. These programs teach our youth valuable skills in a safe and structured environment. Under AB 424, these programs would have to be eliminated.

Please vote "No" on AB 424. The bill is a solution in search of a problem, and could eliminate programs that generate students with a strong knowledge of safety practices and advanced leadership skills.

For further discussion of this bill and its unintended consequences, please call Jeffrey Volberg at (916) 217-5117, or email him at jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A Volberg
Director of Water Law & Policy
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Public Safety