

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1858 (Ward) - How Schools Conduct Active
2 Shooter Drills With a Trauma-Informed Approach]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1858, introduced by**
4 **Assembly Member Chris Ward, to regulate the conduct of school shooter drills in**
5 **California schools to minimize trauma and ensure safety.**

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7 WHEREAS, The presence of gun violence in schools has become a significant concern
8 for students, teachers, and parents alike, with more than 370,000 students experiencing gun
9 violence at school since the Columbine High School shooting in 1999 according to the
10 Washington Post; and

11 WHEREAS, The diverse implementation of active shooter drills across California
12 schools has shown that 93% of schools conduct at least one lockdown drill per year, yet the
13 intensity and method of these drills can significantly vary, leading to different impacts on
14 students' psychological health; and

15 WHEREAS, "High-intensity drills," including simulations that mimic actual shooting
16 scenarios, have been reported to cause heightened fear and anxiety among students, with
17 17% of students reporting emotional impacts due to unannounced and realistic simulation
18 elements; and

19 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 1858, as amended on March 12, 2024, proposes
20 essential changes to the way schools conduct shooter drills, mandating a trauma-informed
21 approach that includes advance notification of drills, age-appropriate content, and the
22 availability of mental health resources; and

23 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 1858 also requires the California Department of
24 Education to establish and disseminate best practices for school shooter drills by June 15,

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1 2025, ensuring that all schools in the state adhere to guidelines to protect students from
2 trauma while maintaining preparedness; and

3 WHEREAS, The proposed measures in Assembly Bill No. 1858 align with California's
4 ongoing commitment to legislative innovation that protects the youth and ensures schools
5 remain safe and supportive environments are conducive to learn in; and

6 WHEREAS, The thoughtful regulation of school shooter drills as proposed in Assembly
7 Bill No. 1858 underscores the necessity of both proactive and reactive measures in the fight
8 against gun violence, advocating for prevention strategies that extend beyond mere
9 preparedness to address the broader implication of such crises on youth mental health and
10 school safety; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
12 hereby endorses Assembly Bill No. 1858, recognizing its significance in promoting safer and
13 more psychologically considerate school environments; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to transmit
15 copies of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro Tempore Mike McGuire,
16 Speaker of the State Assembly Robert Rivas, State Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Member
17 Matt Haney, Assembly Member Phil Ting, and Assembly Member Chris Ward, as a
18 demonstration of the Board's support for Assembly Bill No. 1858 and its commitment to
19 fostering an inclusive and equitable political landscape in California.

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