

**PROPOSED
RESOLUTION**
for submission to the
2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly

Must be received by: Jan. 14, 2013
Return to: Office of the President
NYSUT
800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110

If this is a reaffirmation of a prior resolution, please check here.

Resolution title: Make CUNY Both Safe and Open

Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Local or Retiree Council Name
(See format and guidelines on last page of this document.)

WHEREAS the faculty and staff of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY are deeply moved by the deaths of teachers and students at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and

WHEREAS we pay tribute to the bravery of our union colleagues, the teachers and other staff at the School, some of whom gave their own lives to save their students;

WHEREAS a recent Institute of Medicine report documents that gun violence is a major contributor to years of life lost by Americans before age 50, that the rate of firearm homicides in the US is 20 times that of 23 other developed nations, with suicides by firearms six times higher than our international peers(i);

WHEREAS, the United States has endured 62 mass shootings since 1982, more than a third of which have taken place since 2006(ii);

WHEREAS 11 (12%) of these mass shooting incidents have taken place at schools and colleges in 30 states;

(over)

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly by the:

Executive Council at a meeting held on 1/10/13
(Executive Board, General Membership, etc.) (date)

Please print name: Barbara Bowen
(President)

Signature: _____
(President) Local 2334
NYSUT Local or Retiree Council

Local or Retiree Council name: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Local or Retiree Council President's email address: bbowen@pscmail.org

(Reverse of Resolution Form)

WHEREAS in these school mass shootings, the majority of perpetrators presented prior signs of mental illness;

WHEREAS faculty, counselors, and professional staff play a central role in identifying potentially violent students;

WHEREAS the number of counseling faculty at CUNY is well below the national per capita average;

WHEREAS we are committed to maintaining the open nature of the university and its connections to the communities we serve;

WHEREAS each CUNY campus already has armed security guards, and the presence of more guns on campuses has not been shown to deter mass school shootings but does increase the risk of their improper use, accidental discharge, or threat to innocent bystanders; therefore be it

RESOLVED that NYSUT support the PSC/CUNY in calling for the following:

- No increase in the number of officers carrying weapons on campus.
- An increase in the number of counseling faculty to achieve the national standard of one counselor for every 1,500 students.
- A commitment to approaching mental illness as any other serious illness would be approached—without stigmatizing the patient, the patient’s family or the patient’s community.
- Increased training for faculty and staff on how to identify and handle potentially dangerous students.
- Increased support for student affairs and counseling faculty in dealing with potentially violent students, including improved on-campus mental health services.
- Greater involvement of faculty and professional staff in the development of school violence prevention and response efforts.

i “Shorter Lives, Poorer Health,” Institute of Medicine. National Academies Press, Washington, D.C. 2013.

ii See “A Guide to Mass Shootings in America”.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/07/mass-shootings-map>.