

RELEASE: House Passes Legislation to Strengthen Public Safety in Schools

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PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – The House of Representatives voted today 213-159 to pass [HB 564](#), codifying the federal Gun Free Schools Act in New Hampshire Law. **House Majority Leader Doug Ley (D-Jaffrey)** released the following statement:

“The second vote today to pass HB 564 reiterates the New Hampshire House’s desire to protect the best interests of our students and teachers and keep them safe. This legislation is critical in ensuring that New Hampshire schools remain safe and secure.”

“This legislation will simply codify the federal Gun Free School Act in New Hampshire law. Our cities and towns currently have no authority to enact firearm prohibitions in our schools and local police do not possess the authority to enforce federal law with appropriate penalties. This legislation was amended to allow for certain trained personnel authorized by a school board to carry a firearm, addressing and abating concerns that some on the committee had about a school’s response to unknown criminality. This thorough legislation will go a long way to protect public safety in our schools. It is time that New Hampshire join the 47 other states who have enacted legislation to allow local communities to keep schools, educators and staff in safe environments to learn and grow.”

“Debates over legislation involving gun policy understandably become passionate. The divisive assertion we heard on the House floor today, where a member predicted future school shootings in New Hampshire, have no place in our discourse. The intent of this legislation is to promote the safety and security of New Hampshire children as well as the sanctity of the school environment and should not be manipulated through intimidation and fear-mongering.”

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