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FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

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LEGISLATIVE ALERT

March 1, 2018



***Do you want to know which teachers
are packing heat???***

Say NO to SB 1940 and HB 7103!

In the wake of the Valentines Day mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, members of the House Appropriations Committee unanimously approved a bill that would create a public record exemption for the identifying information of teachers or school staff who are allowed to carry concealed

weapons into our schools. HB 7103 was introduced Tuesday and immediately placed on the House Special Order Calendar. <http://bit.ly/2oHYBRb>

A companion bill, SB 1940, was heard in the Senate Rules Committee *this morning* and is headed to the Senate Special Order Calendar. <http://bit.ly/2HV453z>

Both bills are scheduled for consideration by their respective chambers on Friday, March 2.

The breadth of this proposed exemption and its possible impact on public oversight and accountability is breathtaking. If enacted, the legislation will exempt *all* information held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school that would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a “school marshal” and authorized to carry firearms on school grounds.

BUT here’s what doesn’t make sense: HB 7101 (which creates the school marshal program) requires that school marshals “be distinctly and visually identifiable” to faculty, staff, and students. So we may be able to SEE that Ms. Jones is a school marshal but we have no way of assuring ourselves that she has the appropriate qualifications and training to protect our students!

The importance of public access to such information that allows us to reassure ourselves that those authorized to protect our students *cannot* be overstated.

We urge each and every one of you to contact your legislators and let them know that we need access to this critically important information.

To find members of your local delegation, click here: <http://bit.ly/2HT5lie>

If you have questions about SB 1940 or HB 7103 or any of the other bills currently on our tracking list, please contact Barbara Petersen at 800/337-3518 or sunshine@floridafaf.org.