

1 [Support for AB 1858: Trauma-Informed Best Practices for Active Shooter Drills]

2 **Motion supporting Assembly Bill 1858: Trauma-informed best practices for active**
3 **shooter drills and urging the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and San Francisco’s**
4 **members of the State Legislature to support.**

5 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1858, introduced by California Assemblymember
6 Christopher Ward (Assembly District 78), will require a standard process for active
7 shooter drills in schools and require the State Department of Education to curate and
8 share best practices for active shooter drills in schools; and

9 WHEREAS, Active shooter drills range in intensity and realism, with extreme
10 examples being reported where realistic-looking fake weapons were used, educators
11 were not made aware of drills ahead of time, individuals attempted to gain entry to
12 locked-down classrooms while posing as an active threat, and more; and

13 WHEREAS, These extreme drills can cause long-lasting trauma for students,
14 educators, and families and do not improve the response to real emergency situations;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Currently there is debate among experts on the effectiveness and
17 necessity of active shooter drills for schools, yet widespread agreement that they should
18 not include traumatizing practices as aforementioned; and

19 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has supported, through its adoption of the
20 FY 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Youth Commission Budget and Policy Priorities, trauma-
21 informed practices for lockdown drills; and therefore be it

22 MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission supports Assembly Bill
23 1858: Trauma-informed best practices for active shooter drills, and be it

1 FURTHER MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the San
2 Francisco Board of Supervisors, Mayor London Breed, California Senator Scott Wiener,
3 and Assemblymembers Haney and Ting to support Assembly Bill 1858.

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1 **[Support for AB 1858: Trauma-Informed Best Practices for Active Shooter Drills]**

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3 **Supplemental Information:**

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5 See attached document: [Letter of Support]

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May 6, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1858 (Ward): Comprehensive school safety plans: active shooters: armed assailants: drills.

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, I am writing to support AB 1858 (Ward), which would require a standard process for active shooter drills in schools and require the State Department of Education to curate and share best practices for active shooter drills in schools.

The Youth Commission is a body of 17 youth from San Francisco between the ages of 12 and 23. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the Commission is responsible for advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is also charged with



providing comment and recommendation on all proposed laws that would primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

Alarming instances of poor judgment and traumatizing drills have put a light on the unregulated structure of guidance that schools and local educational agencies have to navigate when devising these types of drills. It has been observed that extreme versions of these drills cause trauma for students and have questionable benefits in active shooter situations. It is essential that active shooter drills serve the purpose of preparing students and educators for emergencies, not create fear and trauma which can make these drills ineffective.

AB 1858 would create a permissive and structured procedural guidance to be available through the California Department of Education that is focused on preparedness, open communication, and minimizing the trauma that currently is caused by school shooter drills.

For these reasons, the San Francisco Youth Commission supports AB 1858.

Sincerely,

Ewan Barker Plummer, Chair
Adopted on May 6th, 2024
San Francisco Youth Commission