

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

SB 621

July 2, 2019

To the Honorable General Assembly of
the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Today, I am signing Senate Bill 621, Printer's Number 1081 of 2019 (SB 621), which amends Article XIII-C (School Police Officers and School Resource Officers) of the Public School Code of 1949 (School Code). This legislation passed the General Assembly on June 28, 2019 and provides for additional training for school security personnel.

In signing this bill, I am cognizant of the fact that the School Code, as a whole, continues to set forth a comprehensive scheme that prohibits the arming of individuals except through the processes set forth in Article XIII-C.

In fact, section 1301-C of SB 621 defines "school security personnel" to clarify that only school police officers, school resource officers, and school security guards are "security personnel." As such, teachers may not be considered "security personnel," and therefore are not authorized to be armed in schools through this legislation or any other law in the commonwealth.

Notably, the School Code provides that "nothing in this article shall be construed to preclude a school entity or nonpublic school from employing other security personnel as the school entity or nonpublic school deems necessary." See, 24 P.S. § 13-1312-C. This legislation removes any ambiguity about whether teachers may be designated as "security personnel." SB 621 clearly and plainly establishes that they may not. In fact, only school police officers, school resource officers, and school security guards trained and hired pursuant to Article XIII-C may be designated as "security personnel."

The students, parents, and educators in this Commonwealth can now be secure in the knowledge that teachers can dedicate themselves to teaching our children, and that the security of school facilities rests in the hands of trained, professional security personnel.

TOM WOLF

