



PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PHONE (727) 464-3614 • FAX (727) 464-3022 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
www.pinellascounty.org

KENNETH T. WELCH
CHAIRMAN

May 4, 2018

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

On behalf of the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners, I write to respectfully request three legislative actions, as school districts work to comply with the recently passed Senate Bill 7026. These actions were recently requested by Largo Mayor Louis "Woody" Brown, and the Pinellas County Commission concurs with Mayor Brown's perspective on this issue.

The Commission requests that state funding for school resource officers (SROs) be revisited should the legislature be called to a special session, or if the Joint Legislative Budget Commission convenes.

Next, given that school districts throughout the state have had sufficient time to review the legislation and decide whether the guardian program is right for their district, we request that funds provided for implementation of the guardian program be made available for the hiring of school resource officers.

Finally, we request that once school districts meet the requirement of assigning a school resource officer in every elementary, middle, high, and charter school, any remaining funds be utilized to enhance additional safe school initiatives, such as school hardening.

The safety of our children is of utmost importance and deserves the necessary resources to make it a reality.

Thank you for your consideration of these three actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth T. Welch".

KENNETH T. WELCH, Chairman
Pinellas Board of County Commissioners

CC: Pinellas County State Legislative Delegation