



September 19, 2006

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

On behalf of the more than 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I urge you to oppose H.R. 5295, the Student and Teacher Safety Act. This bill would require school districts to adopt policies to ensure that searches of students are "reasonable and permissible," or risk losing their Safe and Drug-Free Schools funding.

Although the AFT strongly supports measures to ensure a safe school environment for students and teachers, we believe that this legislation is unnecessary and may actually complicate school districts' efforts to conduct searches in compliance with Supreme Court decisions.

Moreover, teachers are not trained or prepared to make determinations about when searches are "reasonable and permissible." This is a role more appropriately conducted by administrators, to whom teachers can report their concerns and suspicions. Finally, it is counterproductive to jeopardize the very federal funds intended to help districts keep schools safe and drug-free.

Again, I urge you to oppose H.R. 5295 and thank you for considering our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kristor W. Cowan  
Director, Legislation Department

KWC :emc opeiu#2 afl-cio

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

---

AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

---

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202/879-4400  
www.aft.org

---

Edward J. McElroy  
PRESIDENT

Nat LaCour  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Antonia Cortese  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

---

VICE PRESIDENTS

- Roger Benson
- Mary Bergan
- Barbara Bowen
- Kathy Chavez
- John Cole
- Paul F. Cole
- Edward Doherty
- Kathleen M. Donahue
- James F. Dougherty
- Andy Ford
- Janna K. Garrison
- David Gray
- David Hecker
- Thomas Y. Hobart, Jr.
- Richard Iannuzzi
- Sandra C. Irons
- Lorretta Johnson
- Ted Kirsch
- Alan Lubin
- Herb Magidson
- Louis Malfaro
- Jim McGarvey
- Tom Mooney
- Maria Neira
- Ruby Newbold
- Candice Owley
- Maria Portalatin
- Marcia B. Reback
- Laura K. Rico
- Pat Santeramo
- Judy Schaubach
- William Scheuerman
- Sandra Schroeder
- Marilyn Stewart
- Louise A. Sundin
- Ivan Tiger
- Ann Twomey
- Adam Urbanski
- Randi Weingarten

