Proclamation

To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, Schools make substantial contributions to the future of America

and to the development of our nation's young people as knowledgeable, responsible, and productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, Excellence in education is dependent on safe, secure, and peaceful

school settings; and

WHEREAS, The safety and well-being of many students, teachers, and school staff

are unnecessarily jeopardized by crime and violence, such as substance abuse, gangs, bullying, poor discipline, vandalism, and absenteeism in

our schools; and

WHEREAS, All leaders-especially those in education, law enforcement.

government, and business-should eagerly collaborate with each other to focus public attention on school safety and identify, develop, and

promote answers to these critical issues; and

WHEREAS, Numerous schools and school districts throughout the country, along

with national programs, are among those innovative answers; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Safe Schools Week encourages students, parents,

educators, and the community to make a personal commitment to get involved in school safety issues highlighting bullying prevention activities themed as "Get Involved and Get it Solved, Stop the

Bullying!" to promote safe and secure learning climates:

Now, Therefore, we, do hereby proclaim October 15-21, 2017 as

"SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK"

And encourage all fraternal, legal, government and professional associations, students and educators in America's schools to formally adopt similar resolutions and proclamations so that we may enthusiastically work together to make our schools safe, secure, and peaceful places for learning, teaching, and working, free of drugs, alcohol, weapons, and fear.

Done this 10th day of October, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Stephen L. Pruitt, Commissioner of Education