



The Honorable John Rutherford
230 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ted Deutch
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
1520 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
February 26, 2018

The Honorable Hal Rogers
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Rutherford, Deutch, Kilmer, and Rogers:

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is writing to provide our support for the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act of 2018 (H.R. 4909). NASSP is the leading organization and voice for school principals, assistant principals, and school leaders from across the United States. Founded in 1916, our vision is great leaders in every school committed to the success of each student. NASSP also promotes the intellectual growth, academic achievement, character and leadership development, and physical well-being of youth. We are proud to have founded and continue to administer the National Honor Societies and National Student Council.

Every day, students across our nation endure acts of violence ranging from bullying to homicide and suicide. Many of these acts of violence could be prevented. We know that youth often display a series of signs and signals before harming themselves or others. Research shows that youth often display warning signs and signals before taking any action, with 80% of school shooters telling someone of their plans (69% telling more than one person), and 70% of those who complete suicide tell someone of their plans or give another warning sign. Despite these warning signs being present, few of our students, school personnel, and local law enforcement are equipped with the necessary skills to identify the signals and threats to help prevent school violence, while others simply fail to report what they are seeing.

The STOP School Violence Act reauthorizes and amends the Department of Justice's Secure Our Schools Act (P.L. 106-386) to provide state and local government grants to train our local law enforcement, school personnel, and students in evidence-based practices that improve early intervention and stop violence in our schools before it happens. Additionally, the legislation provides support for the development and operation of school threat assessment & intervention teams, as well as anonymous reporting systems to improve the reporting and triage of threats. The STOP School Violence Act builds off of the lessons learned and research in school safety over the last two decades, including evidence-based programs from the National Institute of Justice's Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, transitioning DOJ funding from research to full implementation of violence prevention programming within schools nationwide.

We applaud you for your bipartisan work to fill the gap in school violence prevention. Thank you for your commitment to protecting the health and safety of our students. NASSP supports the STOP School Violence Act of 2018 and urges its passage. If you have any questions about NASSP's comments, please contact Greg Waples, NASSP Senior Manager of Advocacy, at waplesg@nassp.org or 703-860-7236.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JoAnn D. Bartoletti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JoAnn D. Bartoletti
Executive Director, NASSP