



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Nadler:

Preventing crime and protecting the public are the top priorities of Chiefs and Sheriffs across the land. For this reason, the 69 largest metropolitan police jurisdictions in the Nation support H.R. 4909, the STOP School Violence Act of 2018. This bill will provide tools for the comprehensive response necessary to keep violence out of our Nation's schools.

Identifying threats before they occur is critical in preventing violence. The STOP School Violence Act of 2018 will support the coordination of law enforcement, school personnel, mental health practitioners, and students as they recognize and respond to early warning signs. The evidence-based approach supported in the Act will help build upon threat assessment and crisis intervention best practices from throughout the Nation and create the opportunity to continually share information and assist all jurisdictions in successful planning, prevention, and response.

To be successful, schools and law enforcement agencies must be supported with the technology, equipment, and funding of personnel necessary to develop long-term solutions. The Act provides resources that are essential in creating and maintaining local solutions that are tailored to meet the needs of respective jurisdictions.

Our Nation's police officers and the public are looking to you for the leadership this country needs to prevent and respond to violence in our schools. Please know that we will stand with you and we look forward to working with you in support of the STOP School Violence Act of 2018.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police
Montgomery County Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

c: The Honorable John Rutherford

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