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1850 M Street NW  
12th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 326-6000  
[www.naag.org](http://www.naag.org)

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
Chair  
Subcommittee on  
Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland  
Security  
2138 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Committee  
2142 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on  
Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland  
Security  
2142 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, Chair Nadler, and Ranking Member Jordan:

We, the undersigned attorneys general, strongly urge you to pass the EAGLES Act, which reauthorizes and expands the work of the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) to provide research-based threat assessment training. The EAGLES Act was introduced after the mass shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida and establishes a national program to prevent targeted school violence by facilitating evidence-based collaboration between state and federal agencies. The Act's safe school initiative contains research and training components, allows dissemination of evidence-based practices, and authorizes NTAC to consult with state and local educational, law enforcement, and mental health officials to develop research and training. It is unfortunate we have to turn to the threat assessment expertise of the Secret Service in order to keep educators and students safe at school, but gun violence in schools has become all too commonplace. As the chief

legal officers of our respective states, we have a responsibility to pursue every avenue to ensure our communities are safe from targeted violence.

NTAC was created in 1998 to provide information on threat assessment both within the Secret Service and to others who work in criminal justice and public safety. The Presidential Protection Act of 2000 formalized NTAC's authority to research and provide training and guidance on targeted violence and threat assessment. NTAC partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to study targeted violence in schools after the school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999. The findings of that study led to the establishment of school threat assessment programs.

Through its fact-based research and analyses, NTAC has learned and has continued to emphasize: "there is no profile of a student attacker."<sup>1</sup> Because attackers cannot be identified by pinpointing a set of demographic or character traits, fact-based threat assessment programs are key to preventing targeted violence in schools. Further, NTAC's threat assessment model emphasizes that violence prevention includes not only the prevention of the actual act of violence, but also early intervention, treatment, and care to the individuals who show signs associated with targeted violence.

No one person or entity can achieve these goals alone. Preventing targeted violence demands a multi-faceted approach toward a solution and calls for coordination among law enforcement officials, lawmakers, educators, parents and students, and community members. Moreover, reducing targeted violence in our schools requires partnership between state and federal agencies – precisely the type of collaboration contemplated by the EAGLES Act. We urge you, as leaders of your respective caucuses and committees, to work with the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass the EAGLES Act as one part of the solution to keep our communities safe and prevent gun violence.

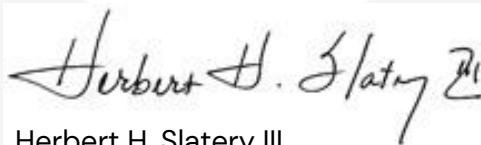
Sincerely,



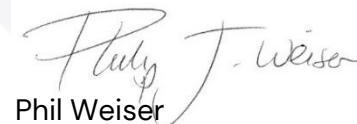
Kwame Raoul  
Illinois Attorney General



Treg R. Taylor  
Alaska Attorney General



Herbert H. Slatery III  
Tennessee Attorney General



Phil Weiser  
Colorado Attorney General

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*, 1 (July 2018), available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18\\_0711\\_USSS\\_NTAC-Enhancing-School-Safety-Guide.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18_0711_USSS_NTAC-Enhancing-School-Safety-Guide.pdf) (emphasis in original).



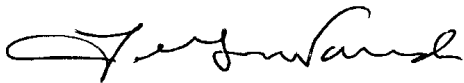
William Tong  
Connecticut Attorney General



Ashley Moody  
Florida Attorney General



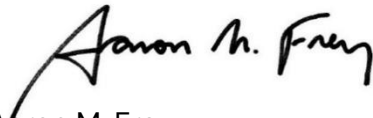
Leevin Taitano Camacho  
Guam Attorney General



Lawrence Wasden  
Idaho Attorney General



Derek Schmidt  
Kansas Attorney General



Aaron M. Frey  
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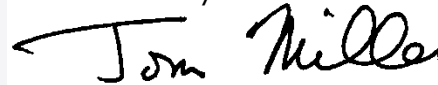
Kathleen Jennings  
Delaware Attorney General



Christopher M. Carr  
Georgia Attorney General



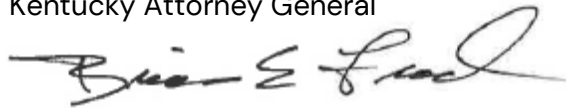
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Hawaii Attorney General



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Wisconsin Attorney General