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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."¹ 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 117th Congress to pass the EAGLES Act as one part of the solution to keep our communities safe and prevent gun violence.

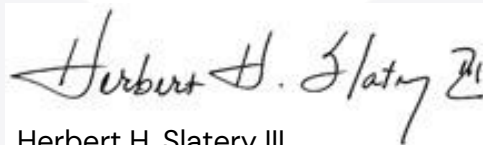
Sincerely,



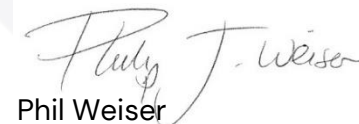
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Tennessee Attorney General



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Colorado Attorney General

¹ 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 (emphasis in original).



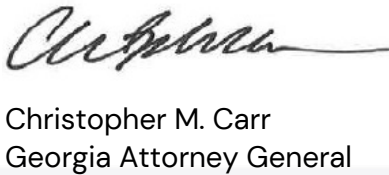
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Kathleen Jennings
Delaware Attorney General



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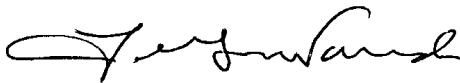
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Georgia Attorney General



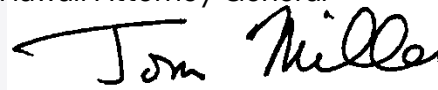
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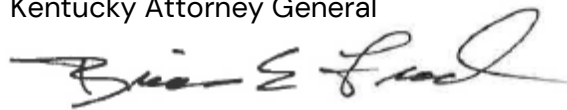
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