April 26, 2021

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

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chair     Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee  House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn Building  2142 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  The Honorable Andy Biggs
Chair     Ranking Member
Subcommittee on  Subcommittee on
Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland  Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland
Security     Security
2138 Rayburn Building  2142 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515  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.” 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,

Kwame Raoul
Illinois Attorney General

Herbert H. Slatery III
Tennessee Attorney General

Treg R. Taylor
Alaska Attorney General

Phil Weiser
Colorado Attorney General

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  
Maine Attorney General

Maura Healey  
Massachusetts Attorney General

Keith Ellison  
Minnesota Attorney General

Aaron D. Ford  
Nevada Attorney General

Kathleen Jennings  
Delaware Attorney General

Christopher M. Carr  
Georgia Attorney General

Clare E. Connors  
Hawaii Attorney General

Tom Miller  
Iowa Attorney General

Daniel Cameron  
Kentucky Attorney General

Brian Frosh  
Maryland Attorney General

Dana Nessel  
Michigan Attorney General

Douglas Peterson  
Nebraska Attorney General

John M. Formella  
New Hampshire Attorney General
Gurbir S. Grewal  
New Jersey Attorney General

Hector Balderas  
New Mexico Attorney General

Letitia James  
New York Attorney General

Josh Stein  
North Carolina Attorney General

Wayne Stenehjem  
North Dakota Attorney General

Edward Manibusan  
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General

Dave Yost  
Ohio Attorney General

Mike Hunter  
Oklahoma Attorney General

Ellen F. Rosenblum  
Oregon Attorney General

Josh Shapiro  
Pennsylvania Attorney General

Domingo Emanuelli-Hernández  
Puerto Rico Attorney General

Peter F. Neronha  
Rhode Island Attorney General

Alan Wilson  
South Carolina Attorney General

Jason R. Ravnsborg  
South Dakota Attorney General

Sean Reyes  
Utah Attorney General

T.J. Donovan  
Vermont Attorney General

Mark R. Herring  
Virginia Attorney General

Joshua L. Kaul  
Wisconsin Attorney General