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AG SLATERY URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT BIPARTISAN BILL TO PREVENT SCHOOL VIOLENCE

The EAGLES Act aims to reduce school shootings through local, state, and federal cooperation

Nashville- Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III, along with the attorneys general of 38 states, is urging Congress to pass the EAGLES Act, a national program to prevent targeted school violence. The legislation is named after the mascot of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School where 17 people were killed February 14th, 2018. The Act would expand the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) with a greater focus on school violence prevention.

The Act's safe school initiative contains research and training components, allows dissemination of evidence-based practices, and authorizes the NTAC to work with state and local officials to develop research and training. Click here to read the bill:

In the letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the attorneys general write, "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."

"Whenever these tragic events occur, and they are all too frequent, we agonize over what could be done to prevent it," said General Slatery. "The EAGLES Act is a bipartisan effort to use what we know, to have additional, top level expertise and training at hand, and to say all of us are doing everything we can to stop targeted violence before it happens."

NTAC was created in 1998 to provide information on threat assessment to the Secret Service and those who work in criminal justice and public safety. NTAC started studying targeted violence in schools after the Columbine High School Shooting in 1999 which led to the establishment of school threat assessment programs.

The letter is sponsored by Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and is joined by the attorneys general of: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, N. Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

To read the letter, click here:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/attorneygeneral/documents/pr/2021/pr21-17-letter.pdf>

