



Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

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February 22, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Brian Babin
U.S. House of Representatives
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Babin:

The Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) is a professional association comprised of law enforcement, prosecutors and other legal professionals, mental health professionals, corporate sector, education sector, probation and parole personnel, security firms, and others involved in the area of threat and violence risk assessment. On behalf of ATAP, I am sending this letter in support of your bipartisan, bicameral effort, the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act, recently filed as H.R. 838 and S. 265. The TAPS Act will provide the necessary multi-layer support, education, policy and program guidance, and funding to facilitate a national capability to identify and assess violence risk behaviors, and prevent violence by intervening before a violent attack occurs.

We believe that, as a nation, we can more effectively prevent targeted violence by identifying concerning behavior as early as possible, and applying established, evidence-based management techniques, knowledge, and strategy through the informed efforts of multiple disciplines functioning as a team. The goal of behavioral threat assessment and management is to proactively address behavioral concerns, mitigate any risk of harm, and deter and redirect those who may be on the pathway to violence. This response to prevention is not designed to profile or predict those who would commit violence. Rather, it provides knowledge and education to professionals, so they may recognize behaviors of concern and implement intervention strategies, such as working with family members, mental health providers, law enforcement, and others to redirect and support the individual before they commit violence.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping our country safe and submitting this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

Yours truly,

Russell Palarea, Ph.D.
President
Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

Cc:
Representative Val Demings
Senator Marco Rubio
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Senator Thom Tillis