



# County of San Diego

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May 16, 2019

The Honorable Brian Babin  
United States House of Representatives  
2236 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Babin:

The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors recently announced its support for H.R. 838, the Threat Assessment, Prevention and Safety (TAPS) Act of 2019. Your bipartisan legislation would take an innovative, multidisciplinary approach to better identify and respond to threats of targeted violence in our communities. The County believes adoption of H.R. 838 would improve safety, security and quality of life for our residents and we have urged Congress to act quickly on this proposal.

Across the nation, tragic acts of violence have taken too many lives. Through evidence-based research and innovation in investigatory sciences, behavioral threat assessment and management allows for early detection and intervention by identifying individuals exhibiting patterns of behavior consistent with intended violence. Deploying the tools and training necessary to perform behavioral threat assessment requires a national strategy which integrates the expertise of all stakeholders in a multidisciplinary approach at all levels of government.

The County is pleased to know the TAPS Act does not impose federally-driven policy decisions on local governments; rather, it encourages each jurisdiction to customize its own approach in the most effective way. The County was also pleased to learn that the Task Force would be required under the bill to involve local governments during the development of recommendations.

Furthermore, the support of more than 45 organizations is a testament to the legislation that spans across law enforcement, mental health professionals, prosecutors and mass shooting victim advocates, including the National Sheriffs Association, National District Attorneys Association, Fraternal Order of Police, National Alliance on Mental Illness and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Thank you for your efforts on and sponsoring H.R. 838, the TAPS Act. Please do not hesitate to contact me if San Diego County can provide any additional information on this issue.

Sincerely,

**GEOFF PATNOE**  
Director  
Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
County of San Diego