



Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

Richard L. Swearingen
Commissioner

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February 25, 2019

The Honorable Brian Babin
Representative, Texas 36th District
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Babin:

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is in support of the proposed TAPS Act of 2019 (HR 838) establishing a behavioral threat assessment and management process and associated funding opportunities for federal, state, Tribal, educational and local communities. Particularly, we appreciate the collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach and incorporation of a task force strategy.

Florida has experienced numerous incidents of targeted violence, including an incident just last week when five individuals lost their lives in Sebring, Florida. We believe these types of evidence-based threat assessment programs being considered with this legislation can help prevent future attacks by better recognizing and managing individuals engaging in behaviors indicative of a potential to commit violence.

In response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting last February, the Florida Legislature required every public school to establish threat assessment teams. FDLE is also in the process of establishing a threat assessment unit as have several local law enforcement agencies in Florida who recognize their value beyond the school environment.

Standardized best practices along with threat assessment tools and training combined with additional federal resources will help ensure the success of these programs. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Swearingen
Commissioner

RSL/red