



# CITY OF HOUSTON

## Houston Police Department

Sylvester Turner, Mayor

1200 Travis Houston, Texas 77002-6000 713/308-1600

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Brenda Stardig Jerry Davis Ellen R. Cohen Dwight A. Boykins Dave Martin Steve Le Greg Travis Karla Cisneros Robert Gallegos  
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April 4, 2019

Art Acevedo  
Chief of Police



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

Senator Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senate  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Babin and Senator Rubio:

On behalf of the Houston Police Department, I write in support of the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act of 2019 filed under H.R.838 and S.265. The TAPS Act offers viable, proactive solutions in preventing targeted violence in our communities. A national strategy wherein a collaborative, multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional behavioral threat assessment and management process is implemented will provide an invaluable tool to law enforcement as well as other stakeholders in efforts to prevent violence by recognizing warning signs that might precede a violent event. A systematic and evidence-based process in identifying individuals who are exhibiting patterns of concerning behavior indicating an interest, motive, intention, or capability of carrying out an act of violence and implementing intervention strategies is key to prevent future tragedies.

Not only will the TAPS Act establish guidelines, best practices, and standards to prevent future targeted acts of violence, the Act will provide states, local government agencies and private entities the training, resources, and support needed to implement such measures. Thank you for working in a bipartisan and bicameral nature to provide a means to enhance public safety and security in our communities.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Art Acevedo, Chief of Police, written in a cursive style.

Art Acevedo  
Chief of Police

aa:jj:jp:blj  
COP #19-70262

