



August 26, 2019

Honorable Congressman Brian Babin  
U.S House of Representatives  
2236 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: House of Representative 838 (Babin) - Support

Dear Congressman Babin,

As Superintendent of Hillsboro School District 1J, I am pleased to support your efforts outlined in H.R. 838, the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act of 2018.

Hillsboro School District is the fourth largest public school district in the state of Oregon with 35 schools serving more than 20,000 students from preschool through twelfth grade. Our students and their families are counting on schools and local law enforcement to work together to make our campuses safe places, but we cannot do it alone.

Local school districts, with support from law enforcement partners from Hillsboro Police Department and the Washington Sheriff's Office, have used what was learned from previous school shootings in our region to implement strategies aimed at preventing this type of attack from happening again. We are collaborating on four areas - prevention, assessment and intervention, emergency procedures, and recovery - to prepare schools for this type of threat.

H.R. 838 and S265 would be a valuable tool in our efforts. The TAPS Act will provide states the training, resources, and support needed to implement community-based, multidisciplinary threat assessment and management units. Those resources would also be extremely useful to schools. The Act recognizes that threat assessment and management processes must become part of the culture and fabric of contemporary law enforcement.

By standardizing and providing a threat assessment and management process across the federal government, the TAPS Act would require the Federal Government to do what schools are doing: developing and implementing programs and resources to help people recognize the warning signs that might precede a violent event and report safety concerns. Our District, as well as other Washington County School Districts, have created multidisciplinary, school-based teams to assess threats and safety concerns as they are reported.

On behalf of the District and school community, thank you for authoring this legislative proposal.

Sincerely,

Mike Scott  
Superintendent

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***Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence***

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