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GOVERNOR

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STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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ROBERT SCHURMEIER
DIRECTOR

February 4, 2019

The Honorable Brian Babin
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Babin:

As you are aware, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) has developed a behavioral threat assessment program to be housed within our state fusion center, the North Carolina Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAAC). This threat assessment program is based on sound investigative principals as well as the latest scientific research in the behavioral threat assessment and management field. It is my understanding this unit is the first such evidence-based program of its kind at the statewide level. Our goal is to prevent attacks on schools, businesses, places of worship and other gatherings by assisting our local community partners in recognizing and managing individuals with concerning behaviors.

The unit has already received requests from local law enforcement, prosecutors, and schools to review approximately seventeen (17) cases since November 2018. These requests have come largely from word-of-mouth referrals with little to no public marketing of the program. As we work through these cases, we continue to revise our processes to reflect lessons learned both from our own experience and from other studies conducted throughout the country. One of our earliest successes has been the ability to facilitate the sharing of vital information between local behavioral health service providers and local law enforcement to help manage an individual who posed a potential threat to an elementary school.

We are currently running this program with no additional funding or manpower resources. As you may imagine, there is a great deal of competition for the scarce resources available at the state level. The SBI would support and appreciate any assistance the federal government could provide not only to us, but to other states who wish to develop similar programs. Therefore, the SBI enthusiastically supports any legislation, such as the TAPS Act (HR 838/S 265), which would provide additional funding and information sharing opportunities for evidence-based statewide behavioral threat assessment programs.

Thank you for your time and support of our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Schurmeier".

Robert L. Schurmeier
Director