

Section-by-Section: H.R. 838, The Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act of 2019
Rep. Brian Babin and Rep. Val Demings

Sec. 4. Establishment of a Joint Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Task Force.

In recognizing the value of the knowledge and experience of experts in the field, this section establishes a *temporary* Joint Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Task Force whose duty is to provide recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on the development and implementation of a national strategy for preventing targeted violence through the evidence-based process of behavioral threat assessment and management.

The Task Force will be comprised of subject matter experts from public and private Federal, State, and local entities including: the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Department of the Navy, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of State, as well as other state and local law enforcement, educators, and mental health service professionals.

Sec. 5. Contents of National Strategy Recommendations.

This section requires that the Task Force's recommendations on the development and implementation of a national strategy for preventing targeted violence through behavioral threat assessment and management include (but not limited to):

- The most effective utilization of existing infrastructure and workforce
- A Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Unit Support Program – behavioral threat assessment and management units can receive support and consultation
- A Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Operations Training Program – operations training on community-based, multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional behavioral threat assessment and management
- A Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management School Violence Prevention Program – a program created specifically for educational entities on threat assessment and management processes
- A Mental Health Service Professional Assessment – ensures mental health service professionals are equipped to collaborate, advise, and consult in the behavioral threat assessment and management process

Sec. 6. Development of National Strategy.

This section requires that, once recommended by the Task Force, the national strategy to prevent targeted violence through behavioral threat assessment and management will be reviewed by Congress before it is implemented by DHS.

Sec. 7. Implementation of the National Strategy.

This section requires the Secretary of DHS to implement the national strategy to prevent targeted violence through behavioral threat assessment and management. Specifically:

- Any and all entities and individuals are eligible to take part in the national strategy
- DHS should consult and contract with other Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies and private sector experts to carry out implementation
- A high-level official will be designated to be responsible for coordinating implementation
- DHS must submit a report to Congress on actions taken to implement the national strategy

Sec. 8. Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Grant Program.

This section establishes a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Grant Program

- Grants will be awarded to aid in implementation, operation, and support
- Requires that grantees match not less than 10 percent of the awarded grant, however, the Secretary of DHS may waive or reduce that requirement on a case-by-case basis

Sec. 9. Authorization of Appropriations.

This section authorizes to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each fiscal years 2020-2024