



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY

"ONETEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

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February 19, 2019

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

Dear Congressman Babin:

On behalf of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, I am pleased to provide support for the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety Act (TAPS) Act – H.R838/S265. I applaud the goals of your bill which will identify and provide a means to reduce threats of targeted violence in our communities. Proactive attention and collaboration by law enforcement, hospitals, doctors, clinicians, businesses, schools and other community entities is critical to preventing attacks. We owe our best effort to those we serve to provide them with the safest environment in which to live, work and raise a family. The TAPS Act will ensure that communities have the resources and training to put in place measures to identify and evaluate those who may pose a risk to themselves and/or others.

The importance of the philosophy and goals of the TAPS Act is further demonstrated in the steps the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has already taken with regards to identifying, investigating, assessing and mitigating threats in our community. Just this month, I, along with other community leaders, established the Rochester Threat Advisory Committee (ROCTAC) which meets twice a month to review situations/individuals who maybe showing signs of violence. ROCTAC is made up of local, state and federal law enforcement officials, school officials, college officials, medical personnel, mental health clinicians, domestic violence non-profit leaders, attorneys and veteran groups whose mission is to "close the threat management gaps created by systems siloes and fragmented responses by providing a central point of information coordination." I firmly believe ROCTAC will assist Monroe County with identifying threats and recommending strategies to thwart those threats before they reach a critical level resulting in serious injuries or death.

One of the key components of the TAPS Act is to "recognize that behavioral threat assessment and management processes must become part of the culture and fabric of contemporary law enforcement." Those in law enforcement must act now to save lives. The TAPS Act will assist law enforcement and communities throughout the United States set up their own threat assessment processes.

Sincerely,

Todd K. Baxter
Sheriff

