



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

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March 22, 2019

The Honorable Brian Babin
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Val B. Demings
238 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Babin and Demings:

On behalf of the University of North Carolina System, I write in support of your recently introduced Threat Assessment, Prevention and Safety (TAPS) Act of 2019 (H.R. 838). The TAPS Act provides for a proactive, integrated approach to preventing acts of violence like shootings in schools, businesses, and other public places.

The UNC System is proud to be a part of the nation's first statewide program of its kind – the Behavioral Threat Assessment (BeTA) unit housed within the state's fusion center, the North Carolina Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAAC). The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) works with local behavioral health service providers, law enforcement, and others, including the UNC System, to identify and evaluate individuals who give indications that they may engage in violent acts. Early identification allows law enforcement and others to implement plans to prevent attacks.

The North Carolina BeTA program is modeled after and relies on the same behavioral threat assessment protocols that the Secret Service, FBI, U.S. Marshal Service, and Capitol Police have all followed with great effectiveness for decades. The TAPS Act would provide much-needed resources to help states replicate and expand this model, which could help us prevent acts of violence and protect innocent lives. Too often, we learn after the fact that at-risk individuals had interacted with law enforcement numerous times, but no one was able to connect the dots.

Thank you for your leadership on the TAPS Act. Please know the UNC System stands ready to assist in whatever ways we can to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

William L. Roper
Interim President
University of North Carolina System