



---

March 29th, 2019

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

**The Honorable Val Demings**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
217 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Babin and Demings:

As the founder of the WalkUp Foundation, I am writing to express support for H.R. 838, the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act of 2019, your legislation to create a multidisciplinary task force of experts to recommend national guidelines for behavior-based threat assessment and management.

My family is among those whose loved ones were killed in the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, which took the lives of 14 precious students and 3 dedicated educators on February 14, 2018.

In response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, the Florida Legislature made several changes to Florida law, including the requirement that all public schools in Florida establish threat assessment teams. Developing and standardizing best practices is crucial to the successful implementation of behavioral threat assessment. H.R. 838 would take an important step toward creating a multidisciplinary task force of experts to recommend much-needed national guidelines and federal resources for behavior-based threat assessment and management.

Behavioral Threat Assessment will save lives, and while our primary focus is school safety, we believe H.R. 838 would not only help protect our nation's schools, it will have an important impact on protecting private workplaces, as well as our shared public spaces.

Adopting a proven threat assessment model will help to prevent tragedies before they happen. We are proud to support the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS)



Act of 2019 and urge its swift passage. Together, we can protect our children and communities from violence.

## About the WalkUp Foundation

The WalkUp Foundation is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to make every school safe for every child, teacher, and staff member. We do this by working to improve the culture in our schools and by promoting behavioral threat assessments in each school, in coordination with the community at-large. While there is no single solution to the complex issue of school violence, we believe behavioral threat assessment to be the most important single tool to aid in the prevention of school violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Ryan Petty

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alaina's Father'.

Alaina's Father  
Founder WalkUp Foundation

