

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2759

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2018

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. HATCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “EAGLES Act of
5 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On February 14, 2018, 17 individuals lost
9 their lives in a senseless and violent attack on Mar-

1 jory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland
2 Florida, a school whose mascot is the eagle.

3 (2) These individuals lived lives of warmth, joy,
4 determination, service, and love, and their loss is
5 mourned by the Nation.

6 (3) The shooter in that attack exhibited pat-
7 terns of behavior that were alarming and that should
8 have alerted law enforcement and other Federal,
9 State, and local officials.

10 (4) The attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas
11 High School was preventable.

12 (5) Lives were saved because of the brave and
13 exemplary conduct of many students, teachers, and
14 staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in-
15 cluding several of the victims of the attack.

16 (6) The National Threat Assessment Center
17 (referred to in this Act as the “Center”) was estab-
18 lished in 1998 to conduct research on various types
19 of targeted violence.

20 (7) Studies conducted by the Center on tar-
21 geted school violence, in particular, have shown
22 that—

23 (A) most incidents were planned in ad-
24 vance;

1 (B) the attackers' behavior gave some indi-
2 cation that the individual was planning, or at
3 least contemplating, an attack;

4 (C) most attackers had already exhibited a
5 pattern of behavior that was of concern to other
6 people in their lives; and

7 (D) prior to the attack, someone associated
8 with the attacker, such as a family member or
9 peer, knew the attack was to likely to occur.

10 (8) Through their research, the Center devel-
11 oped the threat assessment model for responding to
12 indicators of targeted violence, which includes a
13 three-step process—

14 (A) identifying individuals who are exhib-
15 iting behaviors that indicate they are planning
16 an attack on a school;

17 (B) assessing whether the individual poses
18 a threat to the school, based on articulable
19 facts; and

20 (C) managing the threat the individual
21 may pose to the school.

22 (9) The threat assessment model works most
23 effectively when all the relevant parties, including
24 school officials, local law enforcement, and members
25 of the community, are part of a comprehensive pro-

1 tocol to identify, assess, and manage a potential
2 threat to the school.

3 (10) The primary goal of threat assessment
4 programs in schools should be to prevent violent con-
5 duct, with an emphasis on early intervention, treat-
6 ment, and care of individuals exhibiting behaviors
7 associated with targeted violence.

8 (11) Early intervention, treatment, and preven-
9 tion of violent behavior is an effective way to prevent
10 violent conduct that would harm others and neces-
11 sitate disciplinary action, including criminal pen-
12 alties.

13 (12) The parties involved need the appropriate
14 training and tools to establish the appropriate mech-
15 anisms for implementing this type of approach.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that a fact-based threat assessment approach, in-
18 volving school officials, local law enforcement, and mem-
19 bers of the community, is one of the most effective ways
20 to prevent targeted violence in schools, and is a fitting me-
21 morial to those who lost their lives in the February 14,
22 2018, attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
23 and those who heroically acted to preserve the lives of their
24 friends, students, and colleagues.

1 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE NA-**
 2 **TIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER OF**
 3 **THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 203 of title 18, United
 5 States Code, is amended by adding the following:

6 **“§ 3056B. Functions of the National Threat Assess-**
 7 **ment Center of the United States Secret**
 8 **Service**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National
 10 Threat Assessment Center (in this section referred to as
 11 the ‘Center’), to be operated by the United States Secret
 12 Service, at the direction of the Secretary of Homeland Se-
 13 curity.

14 “(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Center shall
 15 include the following:

16 “(1) Training in the area of best practices on
 17 threat assessment.

18 “(2) Consultation on complex threat assessment
 19 cases or programs.

20 “(3) Research on threat assessment and the
 21 prevention of targeted violence, consistent with evi-
 22 dence-based standards and existing laws and regula-
 23 tions.

24 “(4) Facilitation of information sharing on
 25 threat assessment and the prevention of targeted vi-
 26 olence among agencies with protective or public safe-

1 ty responsibilities, as well as other public or private
2 entities.

3 “(5) Development and implementation of evi-
4 dence-based programs to promote the standardiza-
5 tion of Federal, State, and local threat assessments,
6 best practices in investigations involving threats, and
7 the prevention of targeted violence.

8 “(c) SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE.—In carrying out the
9 functions described in subsection (b), the Center shall es-
10 tablish a national program on targeted school violence pre-
11 vention, focusing on the following activities:

12 “(1) RESEARCH.—The Center shall—

13 “(A) conduct evidence-based research into
14 targeted school violence and school threat as-
15 sessment; and

16 “(B) publish the findings of the Center on
17 the public website of the United States Secret
18 Service.

19 “(2) TRAINING.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall offer
21 training courses on targeted school violence pre-
22 vention to agencies with protective or public
23 safety responsibilities, as well as other public or
24 private entities, including public school districts
25 and schools.

1 “(B) DEVELOPMENT.—Training programs
2 developed by the Center shall use best practices
3 in school threat assessment, such as data pro-
4 duced through experimental, quasi-experimen-
5 tal, and non-experimental research.

6 “(C) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the date of enactment of this section, the Cen-
8 ter shall establish a plan to offer its training
9 and other educational resources to public or pri-
10 vate entities within each State.

11 “(3) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL
12 AGENCIES.—To the extent practicable, the Center
13 shall develop research and training programs under
14 this section in coordination with the Department of
15 Justice and Department of Education.

16 “(4) CONSULTATION WITH ENTITIES OUTSIDE
17 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The Center is au-
18 thorized to consult with State and local educational,
19 law enforcement, and mental health officials and pri-
20 vate entities, in the development of research and
21 training programs under this section.

22 “(5) CONTRACTING SERVICES.—In carrying out
23 the functions under subsection (b), and subject to
24 the requirements of other applicable Federal law, the
25 Director of the Secret Service may enter into con-

1 tracts with public and private entities to assist in
2 conducting research and training.

3 “(6) INTERACTIVE WEBSITE.—The Center may
4 create an interactive website to disseminate informa-
5 tion and data on evidence-based practices in tar-
6 geted school violence prevention.

7 “(d) HIRING OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Di-
8 rector of the Secret Service may hire additional personnel
9 to comply with the requirements of this section.

10 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the func-
12 tions of the Center—

13 “(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

14 “(2) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
15 through 2022.

16 “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
17 after the date of enactment of this section, the Director
18 of the Secret Service shall submit to the Committee on
19 the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Ju-
20 diciary of the House of Representatives a report on actions
21 taken by the United States Secret Service to implement
22 provisions of this section, which shall include—

23 “(1) the number of employees hired (on a full-
24 time equivalent basis);

1 “(2) the number of individuals in each State
2 trained in school threat assessment;

3 “(3) the number of school districts in each
4 State trained in school threat assessment or targeted
5 school violence prevention;

6 “(4) information on Federal, State, and local
7 agencies trained or otherwise assisted by the Center;

8 “(5) formal evaluation indicating whether the
9 training and other assistance provided by the Center
10 is effective;

11 “(6) a formal evaluation indicating whether the
12 training and other assistance provided by the Center
13 was implemented by the school;

14 “(7) a summary of the Center’s research activi-
15 ties and findings; and

16 “(8) a strategic plan for disseminating the Cen-
17 ter’s educational and training resources to each
18 State.

19 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

20 “(1) the term ‘evidence-based’—

21 “(A) means a program that demonstrates
22 a rationale based on high-quality research find-
23 ings or positive evaluation that such program is
24 likely to improve relevant outcomes; and

1 “(B) includes ongoing efforts to examine
2 the effects of the program; and

3 “(2) the term ‘State’ means any State of the
4 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
5 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
6 Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of
7 the Northern Mariana Islands.

8 “(h) NO FUNDS TO PROVIDE FIREARMS TRAIN-
9 ING.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated
10 under this section may be used to train any person in the
11 use of a firearm.

12 “(i) NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this
13 section may be construed to preclude or contradict any
14 other provision of law authorizing training in the use of
15 firearms.”.

16 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

17 (1) Section 4 of the Presidential Threat Protec-
18 tion Act of 2000 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note), is repealed.

19 (2) The table of sections for chapter 203 of title
20 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting
21 after the item relating to section 3056A the fol-
22 lowing:

“3056B. Functions of the National Threat Assessment Center of the United
States Secret Service.”.

