



September 17, 2019

House Education & Labor Committee
United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the NEA who teach, nurture, and support students in 14,000 communities across America, thank you for holding this markup of the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act (H.R. 4301). We urge you to vote YES on this bill. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

NEA members support the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act because it takes a number of steps to track and categorize these tragic incidents, yielding valuable information that will help us safeguard school communities.

The legislation creates a definition of "school shooting"—currently absent in federal law—to help alleviate the differences in how media organizations, interest groups, and others talk about school shootings. This will provide a common vantage point for devising effective solutions.

The School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act would:

- Require the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to produce an annual report on indicators of school safety for each school where a shooting occurs, including the number of people killed; the demographics of shooters and victims; the make and model of the firearm and ammunition used; how the weapon was acquired; and the shooter's motivation; and
- Require NCES to gather information related to safety and prevention at schools where shootings occur, such as building design and communication and response plans.

Gun violence destabilizes us all; no one—least of all children—should have to endure it. We must do all we can to stop the next school shooting from happening. The School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act will help us learn more about these horrific incidents so that we can prevent them.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association