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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON UNDERSERVED, AGRICULTURAL, AND RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House H-232, The Capitol Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2022

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I urge you to change your current legislative course of action in response to the Uvalde, Texas, school shooting. Instead of pushing a partisan gun-control package through the House, which has no chance of becoming law in an evenly divided Senate, I strongly encourage you to consider bipartisan measures that will have a meaningful impact on the safety and security of our nation's students and teachers.

One of these bills that could pass with broad bipartisan support is H.R. 2717, the *Safer Schools Act of 2021*. I drafted this bipartisan bill with the help of Representative Ted Deutch in the wake of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida. We sought the input of school safety advocacy groups, law enforcement officers, and school districts as we looked for solutions to make schools safer for our children and educators. These efforts culminated in this bill that creates two new grant programs within the Department of Justice so schools can receive a security risk assessment from licensed professionals followed by funding to fix the vulnerabilities identified.

The American people deserve to see concrete actions from Washington instead of hollow political promises. We must put partisanship aside and work together on solutions that will have a meaningful impact in keeping our students and teachers safe. I strongly urge you to bring H.R. 2717 and other bipartisan measures to the House floor for a vote as we look for legislative solutions to prevent future atrocities.

Sincerely,

Roger Williams
Member of Congress