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April 26, 2021

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL URGES CONGRESS TO PASS THE EAGLES ACT OF 2021**

**Chicago** — Attorney General Kwame Raoul and Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery today led a coalition of 40 attorneys general urging Congress to pass the EAGLES Act of 2021, which would provide research-based threat assessment training to prevent targeted school violence.

"The mass shootings and incidents of gun violence this year alone have left our nation reeling, and it is essential for federal and state officials to work together to minimize that threat, especially in our schools," said Raoul. "I am urging Congress to pass the EAGLES Act to provide more resources into research and training that will help us identify and treat individuals who show signs associated with targeted violence – before a tragedy occurs."

The EAGLES Act of 2021 is named for the mascot of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, which was the site of a February 2018 mass shooting that killed 17 students and teachers. The EAGLES Act would expand the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) to establish a national program on targeted school violence prevention and provide additional resources dedicated to research and training on a national scale. The school safety initiative included in the measure would allow the NTAC to coordinate trainings and research with the departments of Justice and Education, state and local educational officials, law enforcement, and mental health officials. The legislation also requires the Secret Service to provide periodic progress reports to Congress.

Historically, the NTAC was created to provide information on threat assessment to the Secret Service and others who work in the criminal justice and public safety fields. Following the school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999, the NTAC partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to study targeted violence in schools, which led to the establishment of school threat assessment programs. These programs are key to preventing targeted violence in schools by providing early intervention, treatment and care to individuals who show signs associated with targeted violence.

[In the letter](#) sent to leaders of both the House and Senate Judiciary committees, Raoul and the attorneys general note that they have a responsibility to ensure their communities are safe from targeted violence. They argue that no one person or entity can achieve this goal alone, and that preventing targeted violence requires coordination between law enforcement officials, lawmakers, educators, parents and students, and community members. Ultimately, Raoul and the coalition state that the EAGLES Act strengthens partnerships between state and federal agencies that will help reduce targeted violence and keep communities safe.

Joining Raoul and Slatery in calling on Congress to pass the EAGLES Act of 2021 are the attorneys general of Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, the Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.



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April 26, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
Chair  
Subcommittee on  
Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland  
Security  
2138 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Committee  
2142 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on  
Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland  
Security  
2142 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, Chair Nadler, and Ranking Member Jordan:

We, the undersigned attorneys general, strongly urge you to pass the EAGLES Act, which reauthorizes and expands the work of the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) to provide research-based threat assessment training. The EAGLES Act was introduced after the mass shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida and establishes a national program to prevent targeted school violence by facilitating evidence-based collaboration between state and federal agencies. The Act's safe school initiative contains research and training components, allows dissemination of evidence-based practices, and authorizes NTAC to consult with state and local educational, law enforcement, and mental health officials to develop research and training. It is unfortunate we have to turn to the threat assessment expertise of the Secret Service in order to keep educators and students safe at school, but gun violence in schools has become all too commonplace. As the chief

legal officers of our respective states, we have a responsibility to pursue every avenue to ensure our communities are safe from targeted violence.

NTAC was created in 1998 to provide information on threat assessment both within the Secret Service and to others who work in criminal justice and public safety. The Presidential Protection Act of 2000 formalized NTAC's authority to research and provide training and guidance on targeted violence and threat assessment. NTAC partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to study targeted violence in schools after the school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999. The findings of that study led to the establishment of school threat assessment programs.

Through its fact-based research and analyses, NTAC has learned and has continued to emphasize: "there is no profile of a student attacker."<sup>1</sup> Because attackers cannot be identified by pinpointing a set of demographic or character traits, fact-based threat assessment programs are key to preventing targeted violence in schools. Further, NTAC's threat assessment model emphasizes that violence prevention includes not only the prevention of the actual act of violence, but also early intervention, treatment, and care to the individuals who show signs associated with targeted violence.

No one person or entity can achieve these goals alone. Preventing targeted violence demands a multi-faceted approach toward a solution and calls for coordination among law enforcement officials, lawmakers, educators, parents and students, and community members. Moreover, reducing targeted violence in our schools requires partnership between state and federal agencies – precisely the type of collaboration contemplated by the EAGLES Act. We urge you, as leaders of your respective caucuses and committees, to work with the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass the EAGLES Act as one part of the solution to keep our communities safe and prevent gun violence.

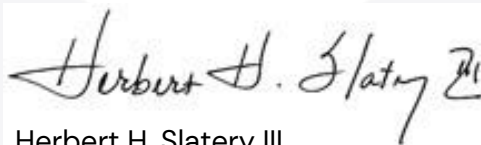
Sincerely,



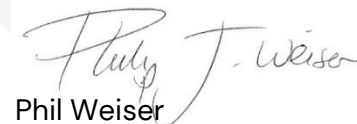
Kwame Raoul  
Illinois Attorney General



Treg R. Taylor  
Alaska Attorney General



Herbert H. Slatery III  
Tennessee Attorney General



Phil Weiser  
Colorado Attorney General

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*, 1 (July 2018), available at [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18\\_0711\\_USSS\\_NTAC-Enhancing-School-Safety-Guide.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18_0711_USSS_NTAC-Enhancing-School-Safety-Guide.pdf) (emphasis in original).



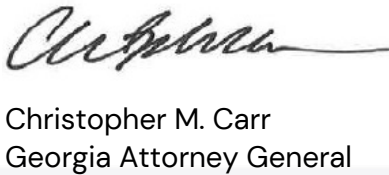
William Tong  
Connecticut Attorney General



Kathleen Jennings  
Delaware Attorney General



Ashley Moody  
Florida Attorney General



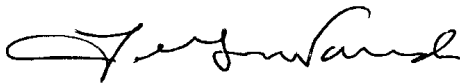
Christopher M. Carr  
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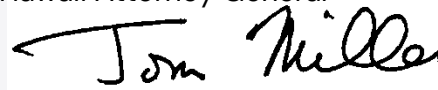
Leevin Taitano Camacho  
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Hawaii Attorney General



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Iowa Attorney General



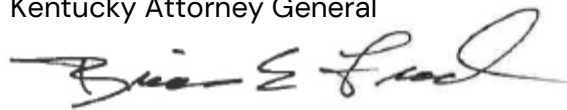
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