The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx:

We write to request hearings before the House Education and the Workforce Committee regarding school shootings. As you know, per House Rule X, our Committee has jurisdiction over “education … generally.” More specifically, the Committee Rule 2 (a) clarifies our oversight over “school safety” and other issues.¹

Wednesday’s preventable tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, resulted in the deaths of at least seventeen students and faculty. Sadly, since the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School five years ago, more than 430 people have been shot in over 230 school shootings.² Despite the sobering reality, our Committee has not had a hearing to address this public health epidemic since February of 2013.

Yesterday, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos remarked during a radio interview that “Congress needs to be holding hearings on these issues.” Secretary Devos called for us to examine this issue and “impact the future.” She stated pointedly that “we have got to have an honest conversation, and Congress has to lead on this. It’s their job.”

Madame Chair, we are wholly in agreement with Secretary DeVos in this respect. We stand ready to lead and do our job with regard to this difficult subject. To that end, we respectfully ask that you schedule hearings to examine the issue of school shootings. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

¹ Rules of the House of Representative for the 115th Congress.  
Sincerely,

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT  
Ranking Member

SUZANNE BONAMICI  
Vice Ranking Member

MARCIA FUDGE  
Member of Congress

MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

CAROL SHEA-PORTER  
Member of Congress

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress

SUSAN A. DAVIS  
Member of Congress

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI  
Member of Congress

LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER  
Member of Congress

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

RAUL GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress