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March 13, 2018

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of Education
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I write to invite you to attend a Forum for Members of Congress entitled, "**Preventing School Shootings: A Comprehensive Approach**," on Tuesday March 20, 2018 at 2:00 pm in HVC 215. I am hosting this event to elevate the importance of evidence-based, preventative practices in which schools can and must engage as part of a comprehensive approach to reduce the likelihood of a school shooting.

In light of the tragic school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida, there is heightened national attention to this issue. On February 15, 2018, you remarked during a radio interview, "Congress needs to be holding hearings on these issues."¹ Because the Committee has jurisdiction over school safety, I, along with all Democratic members of the Committee, wrote to Chairwoman Foxx on February 16, 2018, to request a hearing to examine evidence-based efforts to prevent school shootings. Just this past Sunday, the Administration announced plans to convene a Federal Commission on School Safety that will review and recommend changes to federal statute and regulations affecting school climate and student data privacy. At this time, no commitment has been made to hold a hearing on this important issue despite bipartisan agreement to advocate for more violence prevention funding authorized by Title IV-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

To ensure Members are afforded the opportunity to examine this issue in a timely manner, I reiterate my invitation to you, as the Chairwoman of the newly-appointed Commission on School Safety. Your participation in this important forum will inform Members of Congress about the goals of the task force and the evidence supporting the Administration's proposals to improve school safety. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
 Ranking Member

¹ Betsy DeVos and Democrats Call for Congressional Hearings in Wake of Florida School Shooting (Washington Post, [02.16.18](#)); [Radio interview with Hugh Hewitt](#)