

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education & Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg:

As you plan new hearings in the House Committee on Education & Workforce once the government reopens, we write to urgently request the opportunity to discuss the epidemic of gun violence in schools.

Two recent horrific shootings, one at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, Minnesota and another outside Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado, underscore an urgent need to address gun violence in the United States, particularly its impact on our nation's students. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, there have been at least 118 incidents of gunfire on school grounds in 2025, resulting in 36 deaths and 108 injuries nationally¹.

Because of frequent tragedies like these, students often feel unsafe in school, which can have negative consequences for their engagement level and mental health.² As you know, the Education & Workforce Committee has jurisdiction over school safety and school-based mental health programs, and under your leadership the Committee has the unique opportunity to foster solutions by holding a hearing on gun violence in schools and considering legislation which would support the behavioral needs of students and youth like the Mental Health Matters Act.

Ranking Member Scott has requested such a hearing, most recently when he urged you at a recent full Committee markup to invite Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to testify regarding his Department's proposed elimination of many mental health programs, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. These cuts move our efforts to address mental health issues and gun violence in the wrong direction, and we hope we will have the opportunity to examine them in depth.

¹ Everytown. "The Long, Shameful List of Gunfire on School Grounds in America." Everytown Research & Policy, 2021, everytownresearch.org/maps/gunfire-on-school-grounds/.

² DePaoli, Jennifer, and Jennifer McCombs. "Safe Schools, Thriving Students." Learning Policy Institute, 8 Aug. 2023, files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED630312.pdf.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter. We look forward to working with you to create a safer learning environment for our country's students.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on
Education and Workforce