



September 16, 2019

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
U.S. House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucy McBath
U.S. House of Representatives
1513 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jahana Hayes
U.S. House of Representatives
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Gabbard, Hayes, and McBath:

We are writing in strong support of your legislation, H.R. 4301, the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act.

We are among the family members whose loved ones were killed in the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that took the lives of 20 precious first-graders and 6 of their dedicated educators on December 14, 2012. Together, we formed Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit committed to preventing gun violence before it happens by delivering no-cost, evidence-based prevention programs to our schools that train students and adults to know the signs of gun violence and intervene to stop a potential tragedy. We have trained over 7.5 million youth and adults and averted multiple school shooting, suicide, and other violent threats across all 50 states.

Congress must take a comprehensive and holistic approach to ending gun violence. One critical step to combating this epidemic is to have the data and research today that can drive the meaningful solutions of tomorrow. As you well know, there is currently no legal definition of "school shooting" recognized by the federal government. H.R. 4301 would create such a definition and codify it into federal law. The legislation would also direct the National Center for Education Statistics of the Department of Education in consultation with the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice to release an annual report, "on indicators of school crime and safety," including reporting on important factors like the number of school shootings, the demographics of shooters and victims, the origin of the gun(s) used in the crime, and more.

Sandy Hook Promise is proud to support H.R. 4301, and we urge its swift passage. Thank you for your extraordinary commitment to protecting our children and communities. Together, we can prevent gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Barden". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Barden
(Daniel's father)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Hockley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nicole Hockley
(Dylan's mom)