



FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and Labor
Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act (H.R. 5428) *Securing better data on school shootings for the American people*

Background

In Sandy Hook, Parkland, and countless communities across the country, gun violence has claimed the lives of students and educators.

The first step toward stopping school shootings is better understanding when and how they happen. There is currently no official data collection on this issue, leaving a gaping hole in how the American public and policymakers communicate, track, and respond to these horrific crimes.

Without a federal definition of "school shooting," the media, interest groups, and the American public are left to cherry pick incidents and statistics, defining the problem on terms favorable to the position they hold. This lack of data hampers the ability of lawmakers to work with objective and universal data to craft legislative solutions to prevent, treat, and recover from school shootings.

Congress must act to ensure the safety of our children in their classrooms. Policymakers at all levels of government need better data to drive solutions and prevent these crimes.

About the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act

The *School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act* lays the groundwork necessary to provide uniform data to the public and policymakers, allowing them to better measure the impact of policy solutions on the state and federal level. The legislation:

- Defines "mass shooting" and "school shooting" for the first time in federal law.
- Directs the Department of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, to annually report on indicators of school safety for school shootings that occur.
 - This includes statistics on school shootings, such as the number of shootings, the number of people killed, demographics of shooters and victims, the motivation of shooters, types of firearms and ammunition used, how the firearm was acquired, and more.
- Directs the Department of Education to collect the safety and prevention protocols in place at a school at the time of the shooting, such as information on the building designs, and communication and response plans.

The legislation is endorsed by: Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Council on Great City Schools, Sandy Hook Promise, School Social Work Association, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Parent Teacher Association, and National Education Association.