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December 16, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Walberg:

I write to reiterate requests Committee Democrats have made to hold a hearing to discuss the epidemic of gun violence in schools. Sadly, this reiteration follows yet another mass shooting at a place of learning. Three days ago, at Brown University, a gunman killed two students and injured nine others after entering their review session in preparation for a final exam.¹ The heartbreak hit close to home upon learning that one of the two students killed at Brown University, Mukhammad Aziz Umurzokov, was a Midlothian High School graduate from my home state of Virginia.² No parent should have to endure this pain, especially when many families were hoping to reunite with their college students after they completed their exams and headed home for the holiday break.

This latest school shooting happened exactly 13 years after the horrific Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Connecticut. Be it Columbine, Sandy Hook, Majorie Stoneman Douglass, Robb Elementary, or numerous colleges and universities, the public is still waiting for Congress to consider and pass meaningful legislation to address this all-too common horror. For example, two children were killed in a school shooting in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the start of the school year and two students were shot and critically wounded at a shooting at a high school in Evergreen, Colorado.³ A hearing on the subject would highlight the importance of keeping students safe and afford policymakers with the opportunity to hear from experts about the mental

¹ Katherine Rosman, et al., *A Brown University Instructor Hid From Gunfire With His Students*, The New York Times (Dec. 14, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/14/us/brown-shooting-classroom-victims.html>.

² Gregory S. Schneider, *Brown shooting victim was pursuing dream of becoming brain surgeon*, The Washington Post (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/12/15/brown-university-shooting-victims/>.

³ Ashley Grams, *Annunciation community marks 1 month since mass shooting*, CBS News (Sep. 27, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/annunciation-community-marks-1-month-since-mass-shooting/>; Rebecca Cohen, *Colorado high school shooting victim confronted gunman and allowed students to flee, family says*, NBC News (Sep. 26, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/colorado-high-school-shooting-victim-confronted-gunman-allowed-student-rena233879>.

The Honorable Tim Walberg
December 16, 2025
Page Two

and physical consequences of this American phenomenon. Just as importantly, a hearing would provide a platform for the public to understand the critical role of the federal government in implementing effective and evidence-based efforts to stop school shootings.⁴

On behalf of the Committee Democrats, I again appeal to you to conduct a hearing on this health epidemic that requires immediate attention. To that end, I and my colleagues reiterate our previous request for a hearing in letters⁵ and in remarks during Committee meetings, to compel Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to testify about the Department of Health and Human Services. The public deserves more than thoughts and prayers, they deserve policies and actions from its elected leaders.

Thank you for your prompt consideration and we look forward to working with you to address the safety of this nation's students.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and Workforce

⁴ For example, there is no definition in federal law of either "school shooting" or "mass shooting". Federal researchers have estimated that from 2000-22, there were "328 casualties (131 killed and 197 wounded) in active shooter incidents at elementary and secondary schools and 157 casualties (75 killed and 82 wounded) in active shooter incidents at postsecondary institutions," but noted that data sets used to generate these data are "inconsistent". Nat'l Ctr. on Educ. Stats., *The Condition of Education 2024: Violent Deaths at School and Away From School, and Active Shooter Incidents*, May 2024, https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/2024/A01_508c.pdf.

⁵ Letter to H. Comm. on Educ. & Workforce Chair. Tim Walberg from Rep. Mark DeSaulnier & Ranking Member Bobby Scott (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://desaulnier.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/desaulnier.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/letter-ed-w-hearing-on-school-shootings-final-25.10.14.pdf>; Letter to H. Comm. on Educ. & Workforce Chair. Tim Walberg from Rep. Jahana Hayes et al. (Sep. 12, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/yc33u8xz>.