



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

March 16, 2018

Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott:

Thank you for your invitation to attend a Forum for Members of Congress titled "Preventing School Shootings: A Comprehensive Approach," scheduled for March 20, 2018. I appreciate knowing of the Forum and your intent to focus on a comprehensive approach to school safety. Unfortunately, I will not be able to participate in the Forum.

As you know, earlier this week the President announced his intent to establish a Federal Commission on School Safety ("Commission") and asked me to serve as chair. I intend to move quickly. In leading the Commission, my approach will be to tap into the knowledge of educators, parents, mental health professionals and law enforcement officials to hear first-hand their ideas and learn from their collective experiences. Among other things, the Commission will inventory current best practices and share those practices with those on the frontlines in states and communities, as well as with policymakers.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution. It is already quite clear that we must explore ways to better identify lonely and isolated students in need of a helping hand. We must improve mental health programs, strengthen background checks, expand the availability of risk protection orders and enhance physical security measures at schools. The Commission will study all of these issues and more.

Thank you again for the invitation to attend the Forum. I look forward to working with you and other members of Congress on our shared goal of ensuring the safety of all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy DeVos