

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1005

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself and Mr. MOSKOWITZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “EAGLES Act of
5 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On February 14, 2018, 17 individuals were
2 murdered in a senseless and violent attack on Mar-
3 jory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland
4 Florida, a school whose mascot is the eagle.

5 (2) These individuals—Alaina Petty, Alex
6 Schachter, Alyssa Alhadeff, Cara Loughran, Carmen
7 Schentrup, Gina Montalto, Helena Ramsay, Jaime
8 Guttenberg, Joaquin Oliver, Luke Hoyer, Martin
9 Duque, Meadow Pollack, Nicholas Dworet, Peter
10 Wang, Aaron Feis, Chris Hixon, and Scott Beigel—
11 lived lives of warmth, joy, determination, service,
12 and love, and their loss is mourned by the Nation.

13 (3) Like many attackers, the shooter in that at-
14 tack exhibited patterns of threatening and con-
15 cerning behavior prior to the massacre that were
16 alarming and that should have alerted law enforce-
17 ment and other Federal, State, and local officials
18 about the potential for violence.

19 (4) Acts of targeted violence, including the at-
20 tack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School,
21 are preventable.

22 (5) Lives were saved because of the brave and
23 exemplary conduct of many students, teachers, and
24 staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in-
25 cluding several of the victims of the attack.

1 (6) The Secret Service National Threat Assess-
2 ment Center (referred to in this Act as the “Cen-
3 ter”) was established in 1998 to conduct research on
4 all forms of targeted violence, including attacks tar-
5 geting government officials, government facilities,
6 workplaces, houses of worship, K–12 schools, univer-
7 sities, and mass attacks in public spaces.

8 (7) Research published by the Center on tar-
9 geted violence has shown that—

10 (A) most incidents were planned in ad-
11 vance;

12 (B) the attackers’ behavior gave some indi-
13 cation that the individual was planning, or at
14 least contemplating, an attack;

15 (C) most attackers had already exhibited a
16 pattern of behavior that elicited concern to
17 other people in their lives; and

18 (D) prior to the attack, someone associated
19 with the attacker, such as a family member or
20 peer, often knew the attack was to likely to
21 occur.

22 (8) Through their research, the Center devel-
23 oped the Secret Service’s behavioral threat assess-
24 ment model for preventing targeted violence, which
25 includes a 3-step process—

1 (A) identifying individuals who are exhib-
2 iting threatening or concerning behaviors that
3 indicate they may pose a risk of violence;

4 (B) assessing whether the individual poses
5 a risk, based on articulable facts; and

6 (C) risk posed by the individualized
7 proactive and preventive measures.

8 (9) The Secret Service's behavioral threat as-
9 sessment model works most effectively when all the
10 relevant parties, including local law enforcement,
11 mental health professionals, workplace managers,
12 school personnel, and members of the community,
13 are part of a comprehensive protocol to identify, as-
14 sess, and manage a potential threat.

15 (10) The primary goal of behavioral threat as-
16 sessment programs is to prevent targeted violence,
17 with an emphasis on providing early intervention
18 and connecting individuals exhibiting threatening or
19 concerning behavior to existing community resources
20 for support.

21 (11) Early intervention is a proven and effective
22 way to prevent violent conduct that would otherwise
23 harm others and necessitate more punitive action,
24 including criminal penalties.

1 (12) The parties involved need the appropriate
2 research, guidance, training, and tools to establish
3 the appropriate mechanisms for implementing this
4 type of preventative approach.

5 (13) In K–12 schools, a behavioral threat as-
6 sessment is a proactive approach to identify, assess,
7 and provide age-appropriate interventions, resources,
8 and supports for students who display behavior that
9 elicits concerns for the safety of themselves or oth-
10 ers.

11 (14) There has been a 79 percent decline in ju-
12 venile arrests in K–12 school communities who have
13 received Center training, thus successfully diverting
14 youth away from the criminal justice system.

15 (15) The demand from local communities
16 throughout the United States for behavioral threat
17 assessment trainings has significantly increased.
18 Since its inception, the Center has provided over
19 2,575 training sessions to over 273,000 attendees.

20 (16) From fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2022,
21 the Center has experienced a 117 percent increase in
22 demand for training sessions, with five times as
23 many participants.

24 (17) The Center additionally provides consulta-
25 tion and follow-up engagements with government

1 agencies, law enforcement, schools, and other organi-
2 zations with public safety responsibilities. From fis-
3 cal year 2018 to fiscal year 2022 the Center has
4 seen a 553 percent increase in consultation activi-
5 ties.

6 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that a fact-based behavioral threat assessment ap-
8 proach, involving local law enforcement, mental health
9 professionals, workplace managers, school personnel, other
10 public safety officials, and members of the community, is
11 one of the most effective ways to prevent targeted violence
12 impacting communities across the country, and is a fitting
13 memorial to those whose lives were taken in the February
14 14, 2018, attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High
15 School and those who heroically acted to preserve the lives
16 of their friends, students, and colleagues.

17 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE NA-**
18 **TIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER OF**
19 **THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 203 of title 18, United
21 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3056A
22 the following:

1 **“§ 3056B. Functions of the National Threat Assess-**
2 **ment Center of the United States Secret**
3 **Service**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National
5 Threat Assessment Center (in this section referred to as
6 the ‘Center’), to be operated by the United States Secret
7 Service, at the direction of the Secretary of Homeland Se-
8 curity.

9 “(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Center shall
10 include the following:

11 “(1) Training and education in the area of best
12 practices on threat assessment and the prevention of
13 targeted violence.

14 “(2) Consultation on complex threat assessment
15 cases and programs.

16 “(3) Research on threat assessment and the
17 prevention of targeted violence, consistent with evi-
18 dence-based standards and existing laws and regula-
19 tions.

20 “(4) Facilitation of information sharing on
21 threat assessment and the prevention of targeted vi-
22 olence among agencies and organizations with pro-
23 tective or public safety responsibilities, as well as
24 other public or private entities.

25 “(5) Development of evidence-based programs
26 to promote the standardization of Federal, State,

1 and local threat assessments and best practices for
2 the prevention of targeted violence.

3 “(c) SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE.—In carrying out the
4 functions described in subsection (b), the Center shall es-
5 tablish a national program on targeted school violence pre-
6 vention, focusing on the following activities:

7 “(1) RESEARCH.—The Center shall—

8 “(A) conduct research into targeted school
9 violence and evidence-based practices in tar-
10 geted school violence prevention, including
11 school threat assessment; and

12 “(B) publish the findings of the Center on
13 the public website of the United States Secret
14 Service and on the School Safety Clearinghouse
15 website, known as www.SchoolSafety.gov.

16 “(2) TRAINING.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall de-
18 velop and offer training courses on targeted
19 school violence prevention to agencies with pro-
20 tective or public safety responsibilities and
21 other public or private entities, including local
22 educational agencies.

23 “(B) PLAN.—Not later than one year after
24 the date of enactment of this section, the Cen-
25 ter shall establish a plan to offer its training

1 and other educational resources to public or pri-
2 vate entities within each State.

3 “(3) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL
4 AGENCIES.—The Center shall develop research and
5 training programs under this section in coordination
6 with the Department of Justice, the Department of
7 Education, and the Department of Health and
8 Human Services.

9 “(4) CONSULTATION WITH ENTITIES OUTSIDE
10 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The Center is au-
11 thorized to consult with State and local educational,
12 law enforcement, and mental health officials and pri-
13 vate entities in the development of research and
14 training programs under this section.

15 “(5) INTERACTIVE WEBSITE.—The Center may
16 create an interactive website to disseminate informa-
17 tion and data on evidence-based practices in tar-
18 geted school violence prevention.

19 “(d) HIRING OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Di-
20 rector of the United States Secret Service may hire addi-
21 tional personnel to comply with the requirements of this
22 section, which, if the Director exercises that authority,
23 shall include—

24 “(1) at least one employee with expertise in
25 child psychological development; and

1 “(2) at least one employee with expertise in
2 school threat assessment.

3 “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than two
4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Di-
5 rector of the Secret Service shall submit to the Committee
6 on the Judiciary, the Committee on Health, Education,
7 Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Appropria-
8 tions of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary,
9 the Committee on Education and Labor, and the Com-
10 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives
11 a report on actions taken by the United States Secret
12 Service to implement provisions of this section, which shall
13 include information relating to the following:

14 “(1) The number of employees hired (on a full-
15 time equivalent basis).

16 “(2) The number of individuals in each State
17 trained in threat assessment.

18 “(3) The number of school districts in each
19 State trained in school threat assessment or targeted
20 school violence prevention.

21 “(4) Information on Federal, State, and local
22 agencies trained or otherwise assisted by the Center.

23 “(5) A formal evaluation indicating whether the
24 training and other assistance provided by the Center
25 is effective.

1 “(6) A formal evaluation indicating whether the
2 training and other assistance provided by the Center
3 was implemented by the school.

4 “(7) A summary of the Center’s research activi-
5 ties and findings.

6 “(8) A strategic plan for disseminating the
7 Center’s educational and training resources to each
8 State.

9 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.
12 Amounts appropriated pursuant to such authorization
13 shall be derived wholly from the unobligated balances of
14 amounts made available to the Department, on or before
15 the date of the enactment of this section, to prevent, pre-
16 pare for, or respond to the coronavirus.

17 “(g) NO FUNDS TO PROVIDE FIREARMS TRAIN-
18 ING.—Amounts made available to carry out this section
19 may not be used to train any person in the use of a fire-
20 arm.

21 “(h) NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this
22 section may be construed to preclude or contradict any
23 other provision of law authorizing training in the use of
24 firearms.

1 “(i) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
2 September 30, 2028.

3 “(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ‘evidence-
5 based’ means—

6 “(A) strong evidence from at least one
7 well-designed and well-implemented experi-
8 mental study;

9 “(B) moderate evidence from at least one
10 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-exper-
11 imental study; or

12 “(C) promising evidence from at least one
13 well-designed and well-implemented correla-
14 tional study with statistical controls for selec-
15 tion bias.

16 “(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
17 ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given
18 such term under section 8101 of the Elementary
19 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
20 7801); and

21 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any
22 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
23 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
24 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
25 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL, CONFORMING, AND CLERICAL
2 AMENDMENTS.—

3 (1) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
4 MENT.—Section 4 of the Presidential Threat Protec-
5 tion Act of 2000 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note) is repealed.

6 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
7 tions for chapter 203 of title 18, United States
8 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating
9 to section 3056A the following new item:

“3056B. Functions of the National Threat Assessment Center of the United
States Secret Service.”.

○