

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1229

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. DIAZ-BALART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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

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## 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 2021”.

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

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

1           (1) On February 14, 2018, 17 individuals lost  
2           their lives 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 lived lives of warmth, joy,  
6           determination, service, and love, and their loss is  
7           mourned by the Nation.

8           (3) The shooter in that attack exhibited pat-  
9           terns of behavior that were alarming and that should  
10          have alerted law enforcement and other Federal,  
11          State, and local officials.

12          (4) The attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
13          High School was preventable.

14          (5) Lives were saved because of the brave and  
15          exemplary conduct of many students, teachers, and  
16          staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in-  
17          cluding several of the victims of the attack.

18          (6) The National Threat Assessment Center  
19          (referred to in this Act as the “Center”) was estab-  
20          lished in 1998 to conduct research on various types  
21          of targeted violence.

22          (7) Studies conducted by the Center on tar-  
23          geted school violence, in particular, have shown  
24          that—

1 (A) most incidents were planned in ad-  
2 vance;

3 (B) the attackers' behavior gave some indi-  
4 cation that the individual was planning, or at  
5 least contemplating, an attack;

6 (C) most attackers had already exhibited a  
7 pattern of behavior that was of concern to other  
8 people in their lives; and

9 (D) prior to the attack, someone associated  
10 with the attacker, such as a family member or  
11 peer, knew the attack was to likely to occur.

12 (8) Through their research, the Center devel-  
13 oped the threat assessment model for responding to  
14 indicators of targeted violence, which includes a 3-  
15 step process—

16 (A) identifying individuals who are exhib-  
17 iting behaviors that indicate they are planning  
18 an attack on a school;

19 (B) assessing whether the individual poses  
20 a threat to the school, based on articulable  
21 facts; and

22 (C) managing the threat the individual  
23 may pose to the school.

24 (9) The threat assessment model works most  
25 effectively when all the relevant parties, including

1 school officials, local law enforcement, and members  
2 of the community, are part of a comprehensive pro-  
3 tocol to identify, assess, and manage a potential  
4 threat to the school.

5 (10) The primary goal of threat assessment  
6 programs in schools should be to prevent violent con-  
7 duct, with an emphasis on early intervention, treat-  
8 ment, and care of individuals exhibiting behaviors  
9 associated with targeted violence.

10 (11) Early intervention, treatment, and preven-  
11 tion of violent behavior is an effective way to prevent  
12 violent conduct that would harm others and neces-  
13 sitate disciplinary action, including criminal pen-  
14 alties.

15 (12) The parties involved need the appropriate  
16 training and tools to establish the appropriate mech-  
17 anisms for implementing this type of approach.

18 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
19 gress that a fact-based threat assessment approach, in-  
20 volving school officials, local law enforcement, and mem-  
21 bers of the community, is one of the most effective ways  
22 to prevent targeted violence in schools, and is a fitting me-  
23 morial to those who lost their lives in the February 14,  
24 2018 attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

1 and those who heroically acted to preserve the lives of their  
2 friends, students, and colleagues.

3 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE NA-**  
4 **TIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER OF**  
5 **THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

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

9 **“§ 3056B. Functions of the National Threat Assess-**  
10 **ment Center of the United States Secret**  
11 **Service**

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

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

19 “(1) Training in the area of best practices on  
20 threat assessment.

21 “(2) Consultation on complex threat assessment  
22 cases or programs.

23 “(3) Research on threat assessment and the  
24 prevention of targeted violence, consistent with evi-

1       dence-based standards and existing laws and regula-  
2       tions.

3               “(4) Facilitation of information sharing on  
4       threat assessment and the prevention of targeted vi-  
5       olence among agencies with protective or public safe-  
6       ty responsibilities, as well as other public or private  
7       entities.

8               “(5) Development of evidence-based programs  
9       to promote the standardization of Federal, State,  
10      and local threat assessments, best practices in inves-  
11      tigations involving threats, and the prevention of  
12      targeted violence.

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

17              “(1) RESEARCH.—The Center shall—

18                      “(A) conduct research into targeted school  
19              violence and evidence-based practices in tar-  
20              geted school violence prevention, including  
21              school threat assessment; and

22                      “(B) publish the findings of the Center on  
23              the public website of the United States Secret  
24              Service.

25              “(2) TRAINING.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall de-  
2           velop and offer training courses on targeted  
3           school violence prevention to agencies with pro-  
4           tective or public safety responsibilities and  
5           other public or private entities, including local  
6           educational agencies.

7           “(B) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after  
8           the date of enactment of this section, the Cen-  
9           ter shall establish a plan to offer its training  
10          and other educational resources to public or pri-  
11          vate entities within each State.

12          “(3) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL  
13          AGENCIES.—The Center shall develop research and  
14          training programs under this section in coordination  
15          with the Department of Justice, the Department of  
16          Education, and the Department of Health and  
17          Human Services.

18          “(4) CONSULTATION WITH ENTITIES OUTSIDE  
19          THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The Center is au-  
20          thorized to consult with State and local educational,  
21          law enforcement, and mental health officials and pri-  
22          vate entities in the development of research and  
23          training programs under this section.

24          “(5) INTERACTIVE WEBSITE.—The Center may  
25          create an interactive website to disseminate informa-

1       tion and data on evidence-based practices in tar-  
2       geted school violence prevention.

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

8               “(1) at least 1 employee with expertise in child  
9       psychological development; and

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

12       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13       are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the func-  
14       tions of the Center \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
15       2022 through 2025.

16       “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years  
17       after the date of enactment of this section, the Director  
18       of the Secret Service shall submit to the Committee on  
19       the Judiciary and the Committee on Health, Education,  
20       Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on  
21       the Judiciary and the Committee on Education and Labor  
22       of the House of Representatives a report on actions taken  
23       by the United States Secret Service to implement provi-  
24       sions of this section, which shall include—



1           “(1) the number of employees hired (on a full-  
2 time equivalent basis);

3           “(2) the number of individuals in each State  
4 trained in threat assessment;

5           “(3) the number of school districts in each  
6 State trained in school threat assessment or targeted  
7 school violence prevention;

8           “(4) information on Federal, State, and local  
9 agencies trained or otherwise assisted by the Center;

10           “(5) a formal evaluation indicating whether the  
11 training and other assistance provided by the Center  
12 is effective;

13           “(6) a formal evaluation indicating whether the  
14 training and other assistance provided by the Center  
15 was implemented by the school;

16           “(7) a summary of the Center’s research activi-  
17 ties and findings; and

18           “(8) a strategic plan for disseminating the Cen-  
19 ter’s educational and training resources to each  
20 State.

21           “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22           “(1) the term ‘evidence-based’ means—

23                   “(A) strong evidence from at least 1 well-  
24 designed and well-implemented experimental  
25 study;

1           “(B) moderate evidence from at least 1  
2           well-designed and well-implemented quasi-exper-  
3           imental study; or

4           “(C) promising evidence from at least 1  
5           well-designed and well-implemented correla-  
6           tional study with statistical controls for selec-  
7           tion bias;

8           “(2) the term ‘local educational agency’ has the  
9           meaning given that term under section 8101 of the  
10          Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
11          (20 U.S.C. 7801); and

12          “(3) the term ‘State’ means any State of the  
13          United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-  
14          monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,  
15          Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of  
16          the Northern Mariana Islands.

17          “(h) NO FUNDS TO PROVIDE FIREARMS TRAIN-  
18          ING.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated  
19          under this section may be used to train any person in the  
20          use of a firearm.

21          “(i) 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.”.

25          (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1           (1) Section 4 of the Presidential Threat Protec-  
2           tion Act of 2000 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note) is repealed.

3           (2) The table of sections for chapter 203 of title  
4           18, United States Code, is amended by inserting  
5           after the item relating to section 3056A the fol-  
6           lowing:

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

