

MAJORITY MEMBERS:

JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA, *Chairman*

THOMAS E. PETRI, WISCONSIN
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
TOM PRICE, GEORGIA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
MATT SALMON, ARIZONA
BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, TENNESSEE
TODD ROKITA, INDIANA
LARRY BUCSHON, INDIANA
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
LOU BARLETTA, PENNSYLVANIA
MARTHA ROBY, ALABAMA
JOSEPH J. HECK, NEVADA
SUSAN W. BROOKS, INDIANA
RICHARD HUDSON, NORTH CAROLINA
LUKE MESSER, INDIANA



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MINORITY MEMBERS:

GEORGE MILLER, CALIFORNIA
Senior Democratic Member

ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA
RUBÉN HINOJOSA, TEXAS
CAROLYN MCCARTHY, NEW YORK
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
RUSH HOLT, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, ARIZONA
TIMOTHY H. BISHOP, NEW YORK
DAVID LOEBSACK, IOWA
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
MARCIA L. FUDGE, OHIO
JARED FOLIS, COLORADO
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN,
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
FREDERICA S. WALSON, FLORIDA
SUZANNE BONAMICI, OREGON

January 31, 2013

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

President Obama recently stated, "We won't be able to stop every violent act, but if there is even one thing that we can do to prevent any of these events, we have a deep obligation, all of us, to try."¹ The horrific events at Sandy Hook Elementary School have sparked a national conversation about school safety. While we agree we cannot stop every senseless act of violence, we share the president's commitment to reviewing the facts and evaluating proposed and existing policies and programs intended to help teachers, principals, and parents protect their children.

The House Committee on Education and the Workforce takes seriously this responsibility to the nation's teachers, principals, and superintendents, as well as the parents and children who deserve access to a quality education in a safe learning environment. We are already examining the needs of our nation's elementary and secondary schools, both public and private; studying the effectiveness of existing federal K-12, juvenile justice, and other child safety programs; and considering whether additional tools are needed to help protect students.

The administration's plan to address gun violence consists of 23 executive actions and a series of Congressional proposals. To assist the committee's efforts to evaluate the administration's various school safety and mental health proposals and examine the effectiveness of existing federal programs, we request you provide the committee with the following information:

Executive Actions

1. Please describe the timeline the department will use to implement the executive actions announced by the president on January 16, 2013, including those initiatives jointly conducted between agencies.

¹ Speech by President Barack Obama announcing the release of "Now is the Time: the President's Plan to Protect our Children and our Communities by Reducing Gun Violence," January 16, 2013.

2. Please provide a cost estimate of the policies included in the executive actions issued by the president. Please identify the specific account from which such actions will be funded.
3. The president's plan indicates each agency will be issuing "best practices" to address school safety. What methodology will the department use to determine best practices for elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education? How will the department address the differences and diversity among our nation's schools?
4. How will the department ensure COPS Hiring Grants, currently provided mainly to law enforcement agencies, include proper input from superintendents and principals?
5. The president's plan to release model emergency plans for schools and institutions of higher education and provide security assessments seem to displace many activities currently provided by the private sector. What steps is the department taking to ensure it is not supplanting private companies?
6. Please provide the legislative authority the department is expected to invoke to carry out the executive actions announced by the president on January 16, 2013.

Congressional Proposals and Existing Programs

1. Will the new school safety and mental health proposals be included in the president's budget request for fiscal year 2014?
2. The proposed Comprehensive School Safety program authorizes the department develop a model for using school resource officers, including best practices on age-appropriate methods for working with students. What methodology will the department use to develop this model? How will the department address the differences and diversity among our nation's schools?
3. Please provide a detailed description of each of the school safety, mental health, juvenile justice and delinquency programs currently administered by the department; the goals and actual performance of such program(s) for the last five years; the budget justifications for the identified programs; relevant annual reports required under law (including all reports involving the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention); and any program evaluations conducted or funded, in whole or part, by the department for each of the above identified programs.
4. Please provide a list of grantees and subgrantees, if possible, that received funds for the last five fiscal years for the above identified programs.

5. Please identify how the proposals will avoid overlap and duplication with current programs administered by the department and existing programs administered by other federal agencies.

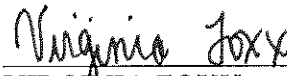
The information you provide will be used by the committee to inform discussion during an upcoming hearing on school safety. We respectfully request your staff contact our staff to schedule a briefing to take place no later than February 7, 2013.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce



VIRGINIA FOXX
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Training



TODD ROKITA
Chairman
Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary
and Secondary Education