

June 8, 2022

The Honorable Glenn Grothman United States House of Representatives 1217 Longworth H.O.B Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Grothman:

On behalf of the Security Industry Association (SIA) and our members, I would like to express our strong support for the *Student and Teacher Safety Act of 2022*, which clarifies that states and local educational agencies may utilize existing federal grant funds through the Department of Education to make school safety infrastructure improvements. SIA is a non-profit trade association representing over 1,200 security solutions providers, many of which provide technology and equipment vital to school safety.

Modern, effective security infrastructure is one of many essential components to a comprehensive approach to school safety – but a critical one. When other prevention efforts fail, measures that address security vulnerabilities can help deter, limit and enhance the response to school violence. Yet many schools struggle with the cost of meeting security needs, as well as effectively implementing the right policies and procedures that are critical to the effectiveness of any security measure. Your legislation takes important steps to ensure taxpayer funding appropriately supports the implementation and improvement of school safety and security infrastructure.

As strong supporters of the <u>Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS</u>), we recommend that all schools and districts utilize the PASS Safety and Security Guidelines for K-12 Schools as they develop, evaluate and seek the necessary funding to implement a school safety strategy, which are included in <u>SchoolSafety.gov</u> and cited by the Federal Commission on School Safety.

Schools should be the safest place children can be—safer than any other environment outside of their homes. We have a responsibility as a society to make this a reality. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this critical issue, and we look forward to working with you to ensure swift passage of the *Student and Teacher Safety Act of 2022* this Congress.

Sincerely,

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