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12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

March 16, 2018

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science
and Related Agencies
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano,

As you make your determinations for the FY19 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you provide robust funding for School Resource Officers (SROs).

In the wake of the recent school shootings, including the Valentine's Day mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida, we need to increase the safety of our students and teachers. SROs are specifically trained to promote safer schools, identify risks to child safety, and protect students.

SROs are funded through the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Their mission is to "proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime." By providing additional funding for SROs, we can help state and local governments provide interested schools with highly trained officers and help achieve the mission of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and hope we can find bipartisan solutions to protecting children in our schools.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

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