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AND THE WORKFORCE
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January 31, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madame Secretary:

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:

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.

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.
2. Please provide additional details on the purpose, schedule, and end result of the mental health listening tour.
3. Please describe how the department will protect student privacy during the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's upcoming research on the causes and prevention of gun violence.
4. Please provide a cost estimate of the policies included in the executive actions issued by the president (i.e., the mental health listening tour). Please identify the specific account from which such actions will be funded.
5. 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 mental health proposals be included in the president's budget request for fiscal year 2014?
2. The president's plan creates a new Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) initiative that aims to reach 750,000 children by training teachers and other adults to recognize children who may need mental health services.
3. Under the proposed Project AWARE competition, how will the department address the differences and diversity among our nation's schools during the proposed grant competition? How will the department protect student privacy and maintain parents' rights to choose the best actions for their child's development?
4. Please provide a detailed description of each of the mental health-related programs currently administered by the department, the goals and actual performance of such program(s) for the last five years, the budget justifications, relevant annual reports required under law, and any program evaluations conducted or funded, in whole or part, by the department for each of the above identified programs.
5. Please provide a list of grantees and subgrantees, if possible, that received funds for the last five fiscal years for the above identified programs.

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6. Please identify how the mental health 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.

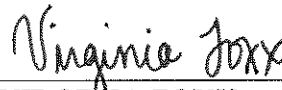
Sincerely,



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