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February 26, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida demonstrates the need for school districts to have the appropriate resources at their disposal to provide students with important support services. This need is one of the reasons we authorized the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG) in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). The SSAEG program provides grants to school districts to support a variety of needs, including student mental health services and professional development for school personnel in crisis management and school-based violence prevention strategies. Schools need a multi-pronged approach to ensure they are doing everything they can to provide a safe and secure learning environment for their students. Resources from these grants can be a key piece in their approach.

As your Committee prepares funding legislation for the remainder of FY 2018, we ask that you make funding SSAEG as authorized in ESSA a top priority. School districts must have flexibility in using their resources to support and protect students and educators.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member