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February 26, 2018

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the terrible tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Like you, I am heartbroken at the lives lost and those forever impacted by this heinous act.

It is important that we work together to support states and school districts in their efforts to keep America's students safe. But no two schools are the same. As the Committee learned in its February 2013 hearing, school districts and local communities need flexibility in the resources provided to them so they can adopt the tools and practices that will best help them protect their students and provide appropriate supportive services to help prevent tragedies. That is one of the reasons we included the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG) in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). As you know, this 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.

This week, I am sending the attached letter to key Appropriations Committee leaders requesting that they make funding the SSAEG as authorized in ESSA a top priority. I invite you to join me in sending this letter. Congress worked in a bipartisan, bicameral way to create this flexible funding, and I welcome your partnership so the program may fulfill its purpose.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman