

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 743

To establish a Commission on Securing Our Nation’s Children, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2019

Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a Commission on Securing Our Nation’s Children, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Our Children
5 Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 “Presidential Commission on Securing Our Nation’s Chil-
9 dren” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

2 (a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall de-
3 velop recommendations after a review and analysis of the
4 following issues related to the safety and security of chil-
5 dren living in the United States:

6 (1) The correlation or noncorrelation between
7 mental illness and random acts of violence.

8 (2) The accessibility of those who have exhib-
9 ited a history of violent behavior or have dem-
10 onstrated increased risk for violent behavior by idea-
11 tion of committing violence or stated intent to com-
12 mit violence to purchase or possess a firearm either
13 by legal or illegal means, including—

14 (A) proven methods that assist in identi-
15 fication of individuals at heightened risk of
16 committing violence against themselves or oth-
17 ers;

18 (B) the ability for Federal, State, local, or
19 Tribal law enforcement to prevent or revoke
20 possession of a firearm from individuals who
21 have been identified as having a heightened risk
22 of committing violence against themselves or
23 others; and

24 (C) the ability of family members and
25 friends to assist an individual who has dem-
26 onstrated increased risk for violent behavior.

1 (3) Submission of individuals to the National
2 Instant Criminal Background Check System, includ-
3 ing State and Federal compliance with data submis-
4 sion to such system.

5 (4) Safety protocols and provisions on school
6 property, including—

7 (A) the feasibility, efficacy, and potential
8 risks of commissioning armed security guards
9 on school grounds;

10 (B) the feasibility, efficacy, and potential
11 risks of training and issuing licenses to teachers
12 and school officials to use and possess a firearm
13 on campus;

14 (C) the impact of gun-free school zone laws
15 on the rates of gun violence in those areas; and

16 (D) the feasibility and efficacy of imple-
17 menting evidence-based threat assessment pro-
18 cedures in all schools.

19 (5) Current State and Federal firearm, firearm
20 ammunition, or firearm accessory regulations includ-
21 ing—

22 (A) any age restriction on the possession
23 or purchase of handgun, handgun ammunition,
24 long gun, and long gun ammunition; and

1 (B) the correlation between certain regula-
2 tions and its effect on illegal firearm possession.

3 (6) The behavioral health support resources
4 available to students in schools and their commu-
5 nities.

6 (7) Any other issues the Commission considers
7 relevant to understanding the state of violence in the
8 country.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 1 year
10 after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, the
11 Commission shall submit to the President and the Con-
12 gress a written report of the findings and recommenda-
13 tions based on the review and analysis required by sub-
14 section (a).

15 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be com-
17 posed of 17 members appointed as follows:

18 (1) Five members appointed by the President,
19 in consultation with the Secretary of Education, the
20 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the
21 Attorney General.

22 (2) Three members appointed by the Speaker of
23 the House of Representatives, including—

24 (A) one Member of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives; and

1 (B) two individuals who are not Members
2 of Congress.

3 (3) Three members appointed by the minority
4 leader of the House of Representatives, including—

5 (A) one Member of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives; and

7 (B) two individuals who are not Members
8 of Congress.

9 (4) Three members appointed by the majority
10 leader of the Senate, including—

11 (A) one Member of the Senate; and

12 (B) two individuals who are not Members
13 of Congress.

14 (5) Three members appointed by the minority
15 leader of the Senate, including—

16 (A) one Member of the Senate; and

17 (B) two individuals who are not Members
18 of Congress.

19 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Appointments shall be made
20 from individuals who are specially qualified to serve on
21 the Commission by virtue of their education, training, or
22 experience.

23 (c) VACANCY.—Any vacancy on the Commission shall
24 not affect the powers of the Commission, but shall be filled

1 in the manner in which the original appointment was
2 made.

3 (d) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Commission shall be
4 elected by the members.

5 (e) REIMBURSEMENT; SERVICE WITHOUT PAY.—
6 Members of the Commission shall serve without pay, ex-
7 cept that members of the Commission shall be entitled to
8 reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary
9 expenses incurred by them in carrying out the functions
10 of the Commission, in the same manner as persons em-
11 ployed intermittently by the Federal Government are al-
12 lowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United
13 States Code.

14 **SEC. 5. STAFF.**

15 The Commission may appoint and fix the compensa-
16 tion of a staff director and such other personnel as may
17 be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its
18 functions, without regard to the provisions of title 5,
19 United States Code, governing appointments in the com-
20 petitive service, and without regard to the provisions of
21 chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title
22 relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates,
23 except that no rate of pay fixed under this section may
24 exceed the equivalent of that payable for a position at level

1 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title
2 5, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 6. MEETINGS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet at the
5 call of the Chair or of a majority of its members.

6 (b) FIRST MEETING.—The first such meeting shall
7 occur not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, for the
11 purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and
12 act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evi-
13 dence as the Commission considers appropriate.

14 (b) DELEGATION.—Any member or agent of the
15 Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take
16 any action which the Commission is authorized to take by
17 this section.

18 (c) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Commission
19 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
20 United States information necessary to enable it to carry
21 out this Act. Upon request of the Commission, the head
22 of such department or agency shall furnish such informa-
23 tion to the Commission.

24 (d) USE OF MAILS.—The Commission may use the
25 United States mails in the same manner and under the

1 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the
2 United States.

3 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator
4 of General Services shall provide to the Commission on
5 a reimbursable basis such administrative support services
6 as the Commission may request that are necessary for the
7 Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

8 **SEC. 8. STATE DEFINED.**

9 In this Act, the term “State” means each of the sev-
10 eral States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth,
11 territory, or possession of the United States, and each fed-
12 erally recognized Indian tribe.

13 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

14 The Commission shall terminate on the date that is
15 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits
16 the report required by section 3(b).

○