



Preventing Violence in America

The Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus contains two House Judiciary Committee bills that prevent violence at our schools and curb gun violence, the STOP School Violence Act and the Fix NICS Act.

The Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act: This bipartisan bill creates a grant program to train students, teachers, school officials, and local law enforcement how to identify and intervene early when signs of violence arise, to create a coordinated reporting system, and to implement school threat assessment protocols to prevent school shootings before they happen. This legislation, authored by Representative Rutherford, incorporates key elements from legislation introduced by Representatives Chabot, Granger, Rodney Davis, Messer, Bost, Susan Brooks, and Coffman. **Here are the bill's key components:**

- **Student Violence Prevention Training:** The STOP School Violence Act provides funding for training to prevent student violence against others and self, including training for local law enforcement officers, school personnel, and students. Prevention training would be designed to give students and school personnel the ability to recognize and respond quickly to warning signs of school violence, and would include active shooter training.
- **Technology to Improve School Security:** The bill provides funding for technology and equipment to improve school security and prevent attacks. This includes the development and operation of anonymous reporting systems, such as mobile apps, a hot-line, and a website. Funding may also be used for metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other technologies to keep schools safe.
- **School Threat Assessment and Intervention Teams:** The legislation also contains funding for school threat assessment and intervention teams so that school personnel can respond to threats before they materialize.
- **More Coordination with Law Enforcement:** Finally, the STOP School Violence Act provides funding to support law enforcement coordination efforts, and in particular, those officers who already staff schools.

Fix NICS Act: In order to purchase a firearm from a federal firearms dealer in the United States, an individual must undergo a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check, administered by the FBI. A NICS check includes a query of three databases maintained by the FBI. If a NICS check identifies a person as falling within a prohibited category, the FBI advises the firearms dealer that the transfer is denied. However, the NICS system is only as good as the information that resides within it. Unfortunately, records in NICS are incomplete. The Fix NICS Act, a bipartisan, bicameral bill introduced by Rep. Culberson, takes several steps to strengthen the information contained in NICS to better protect public safety and curb gun violence.

Strengthens NICS to Protect Public Safety:

- The Fix NICS Act ensures federal and state authorities comply with existing law and report criminal history records to NICS.
- It also penalizes federal agencies that fail to report relevant criminal records to the FBI and incentivizes states to improve their reporting.
- The bill also directs federal funding to make sure domestic violence records are accurately reported to the FBI.