

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a School Safety Clearinghouse, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a School Safety Clearinghouse, 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 “School Safety Clearing-
5 house Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Incidents of gun violence in schools have se-
9 vere long-term effects on students and teachers,
10 such as—

1 (A) moderate to severe post-traumatic
2 stress disorder; depression;

3 (B) violent behavior; and

4 (C) lower proficiencies in math and read-
5 ing.

6 (2) According to the American Institute of Ar-
7 chitects, most of the 132,853 public and private ele-
8 mentary and secondary schools in the United States
9 are not designed to deter these violent acts.

10 (3) Following the tragic 2018 school shooting
11 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Park-
12 land, Florida, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High
13 School Public Safety Commission reported that the
14 greatest vulnerabilities of the school existed because
15 of voids in basic safety policies and strategies.

16 (4) The final report of the Federal Commission
17 on School Safety found that one of the biggest con-
18 cerns raised by schools and school districts was the
19 inability to sift through the multitude of safety op-
20 tions, equipment, technologies, and building designs
21 that are available to improve the safety and design
22 of their schools.

23 (5) While there is no general approach to school
24 safety, architects and engineers as well as other ex-
25 perts in the school security community have sug-

1 gested the establishment of a Federal clearinghouse
2 that could assess, identify, and share best practices
3 on school building design and overall safety.

4 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the
6 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.),
7 is amended by inserting after section 2214 the following:

8 **“SEC. 2215. SCHOOL SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
11 lish a School Safety Clearinghouse (in this section
12 referred to as the ‘Clearinghouse’) within the De-
13 partment.

14 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Clearinghouse
15 shall—

16 “(A) be managed by the Secretary, in co-
17 ordination with—

18 “(i) the Secretary of Education;

19 “(ii) the Attorney General; and

20 “(iii) the Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services;

22 “(B) engage appropriate Federal, State,
23 local, and nongovernmental organizations to
24 identify, cross-promote, and disseminate infor-
25 mation; and

1 “(C) be assigned such personnel and re-
2 sources as the Secretary considers appropriate
3 to carry out this section, including not fewer
4 than 5 full-time equivalent employees.

5 “(3) EVIDENCE-BASED TIERS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
7 sultation with the Secretary of Education, the
8 Attorney General, and the Secretary of Health
9 and Human Services, shall develop tiers for de-
10 termining evidence-based practices that dem-
11 onstrate a significant effect on improving the
12 health, safety, and welfare of persons in school
13 settings.

14 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The tiers required
15 to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

16 “(i) prioritize—

17 “(I) strong evidence from not
18 less than 1 well-designed and well-im-
19 plemented experimental study; and

20 “(II) moderate evidence from not
21 less than 1 well-designed and well-im-
22 plemented quasi-experimental study;
23 and

24 “(ii) consider promising evidence that
25 demonstrates a rationale based on high-

1 quality research findings or positive eval-
2 uations that such activity, strategy, or
3 intervention is likely to improve school cli-
4 mate and promote school safety.

5 “(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Clearinghouse shall—

6 “(1) serve as a central resource to identify,
7 catalog, and describe best practices, case studies,
8 and relevant Federal grants related to safe school
9 design and evidence-based practices, for use by local
10 education agencies, local law enforcement agencies,
11 schools, architects, engineers, and others, and any
12 other school safety topics related to school design as
13 determined appropriate by the Secretary;

14 “(2) review and, as appropriate, incorporate fi-
15 nalized school safety recommendations from other
16 related agencies, State and local partners, and ap-
17 propriate nongovernmental organizations, such as
18 national associations of architects and engineers;

19 “(3) determine a means to solicit input from in-
20 stitutions of higher education and design schools,
21 national associations of architects, engineers, school
22 safety experts, building supervisors, school facilities
23 managers, community-based organizations, and
24 other school safety stakeholders for the purpose of

1 regularly updating the resources and evidence-based
2 recommendations of the Clearinghouse;

3 “(4) make training and technical assistance
4 available to local education agencies seeking Federal
5 grants to improve school safety, including providing
6 a website with up-to-date information on resources,
7 and may partner with nongovernmental organiza-
8 tions, such as national associations of architects and
9 engineers and security experts, to provide the train-
10 ing and technical assistance; and

11 “(5) shall perform such other functions nec-
12 essary to carry out the functions described in para-
13 graphs (1) through (4) as the Secretary determines
14 appropriate.

15 “(c) EXEMPTION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United
16 States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduc-
17 tion Act’), shall not apply to any rulemaking or informa-
18 tion collection required under this section.

19 “(d) PROHIBITION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this sec-
21 tion, an officer or employee of Department may not
22 approve, sponsor, endorse, or take any other action
23 that may be deemed or construed to be an approval,
24 sponsorship, or endorsement of any product of a
25 specific organization (including a non-profit organi-

1 zation), such as a building material or technology,
2 that provides a financial gain or other benefit to the
3 organization.

4 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1)
5 shall not be construed to prevent an officer or em-
6 ployee of the Department from implementing—

7 “(A) recommendations, training, and other
8 assistance developed under subsection (b), in-
9 cluding by broadly identifying building mate-
10 rials and technologies that could uphold health,
11 safety, and welfare on school property; or

12 “(B) the Support Anti-Terrorism by Fos-
13 tering Effective Technologies Act of 2002 (6
14 U.S.C. 441 et seq.).”.

15 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
16 The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Se-
17 curity Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135)
18 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section
19 2214 the following:

“Sec. 2215. School Safety Clearinghouse.”.