



LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Friday, March 9, 2018

Regarding: **H.R.4909 (the “STOP School Violence Act of 2018”)**
Position: **OPPOSED**

H.R.4909 eliminates funding for physical school security measures and would appropriate tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to nonsensical, dangerous, and unaccountable grant programs. Rather than implementing tangible, substantive, and effective security measures at American schools to keep kids, teachers, staff, and others safe, H.R.4909 would create serious new public safety problems and solve none.

- **H.R.4909 would make schools less safe by making it harder to keep evil and mentally ill people OUT of schools in the first place.**
- H.R.4909 would eliminate funding for the installation and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures at schools and on school grounds.
- H.R.4909 would mandate grants for the development and operation of dangerous “anonymous reporting systems,” including “mobile telephone applications, hotlines, and internet websites” that do not have any requirements for accountability, transparency, or penalties for filing false reports.
- H.R.4909 would use taxpayer dollars to fund “anonymous” systems that would allow and encourage abuses, like the “swatting” of law-abiding people and their children.
- H.R.4909 has NO protections for the privacy of the information reported to these “anonymous” systems—which may be subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and/or state or local freedom of information analogs (i.e., California Public Records Act, Cal. Gov’t Code § 6250, et seq.; California Constitution Art. I Sec. 3(b)).
- H.R.4909 has NO definition of a “[true] threat” or intent requirement for the purposes of filing these “anonymous” “threats of school violence,” what these anonymous reports may be used for, and how they are to be responded or reacted to. (*See, e.g., Elonis v. United States*, 135 S.Ct. 2001; *United States v. Bagdasarian*, 652 F.3d 1113 (9th Cir. 2011); *United States v. Heineman*, 767 F.3d 970 (10th Cir. 2014).)
- H.R.4909 would create new subgrants with no express limitations. These subgrants could be used to fund gun control or similar initiatives to undermine or abrogate constitutional rights with taxpayer dollars.

For these and other reasons, we oppose H.R.4909 and urge your “Nay” vote.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at **(916) 378-5785** or **policy@fpchq.org** to discuss these or other matters in detail. Thank you for your time and consideration.