

June 3, 2019

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Re: House Bill 1423

Dear Lawmaker,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for House Bill 1423 which would require the establishment of threat assessment teams in Pennsylvania’s public schools.

School safety is a top concern for our organizations, and we remain focused on state-level policies that will make our schools safer. Threat assessment is a widely recognized violence prevention strategy which if enacted, would strengthen the important school safety measures contained in Act 44 of 2018.

In addition, HB 1423 would provide a critical connection to the Safe2Say anonymous tip reporting system. When there are reports about threats of violence to self or others, schools must be prepared to assess such threats and intervene before an act of violence is carried out.

Importantly, HB 1423 represents extensive collaboration and input from various education stakeholders and provides a reasonable timeframe for implementation; flexibility for schools to utilize existing teams or structures; seamless integration with the Safe2Say Something program; model guidance and procedures that are based on best practices and validated tools; and access to school safety grant funding to cover any costs associated with implementation.

For these reasons we support this legislation as an important school safety initiative.  Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring every school across the commonwealth is a safe place to educate and learn.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania School Boards Association

Pennsylvania State Education Association

Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators