



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress**  
**Committee on Homeland Security**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We were horrified by the tragic massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, in which 19 children and two teachers were killed and 17 others were injured, and our hearts are with the victims' families.<sup>1</sup> As we mourn this terrible loss of life, we write to request a briefing on the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) role in responding to such incidents and what the Department is doing, along with its Federal, State, and local partners, to prevent future tragedies.

While details surrounding the horrific shooting at Robb Elementary School are still emerging, it has been reported that U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC) agents and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents brought this deadly incident to an end when they contravened local law enforcement's decision not to engage and entered the classroom and killed the shooter.<sup>2</sup> We commend the law enforcement personnel who responded to the shooting and acted to help save students and teachers and prevent further loss of life.

At the same time, this tragedy raises questions about what authorities and responsibilities DHS personnel have in such situations, what agreements are in place related to the Department's law enforcement personnel providing support to State and local law enforcement agencies, and whether the Department intends to bolster its school security efforts beyond existing initiatives like the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's School Safety and Security resources and the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center's work on targeted school violence.

To better understand these important issues, we respectfully request a briefing on DHS' approach to providing on-the-ground support to State and local law enforcement in these incidents and the steps the Department is planning to take in the wake of the Robb Elementary School massacre to help prevent violence in America's schools.

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<sup>1</sup>Zoe Christen Jones, "What we know about the victims of the Uvalde school shooting," CBS News (May 30, 2022), <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/texas-school-shooting-victims-ualde-robb-elementary/>.

<sup>2</sup>Julia Ainsley, "Federal agents entered Uvalde school to kill gunman despite local police initially asking them to wait," NBC News (May 27, 2022), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/federal-agents-entered-ualde-school-kill-gunman-local-police-initial-rcna30941>.

Thank you for your attention to this timely matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



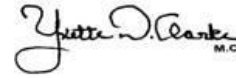
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
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Eric Swalwell  
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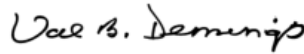
Dina Titus  
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