

Protect America's Schools Act of 2018
Introduced by Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC)

Statements of Support - North Carolina Sheriffs

Charles McDonald - Henderson County Sheriff

“As the discussion about our need to properly secure our schools continues, once again, we see the benefit an advocate for our district like Congressman Mark Meadows brings to the table. I supported Congressman Meadows’ original Protect America’s Schools Act in 2013, as he tried to assist local law enforcement in delivering a safer school environment for our children, and I have seen his unwavering support for securing our communities ever since.

As counties like ours look at the myriad of options to improve school safety, this initial funding for School Resource Officers is a great step to ensure that our local governments have access to the funding they need should they determine that increased officer presence is, in fact, one facet of the strategy they want to adopt. I appreciate Congressman Meadows for once again taking the lead in this area and join him in supporting this critical effort.”

Carson Smith - Pender County Sheriff & President of the NC Sheriff's Association

It is the clear consensus among North Carolina sheriffs that a critical component of providing school safety for our students, teachers and school personnel is to have certified and trained law enforcement officers assigned to each school as a School Resource Officer. We greatly appreciate Congressman Meadows’ support for addressing this critical need.

Chip Hall - Jackson County Sheriff

On behalf of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the children of Jackson County and their families, I would like to personally thank Congressman Mark Meadows for his efforts to obtain funding to enhance the safety of our schools here in Jackson County and WNC. The Jackson County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to provide a safe learning environment for our future generations.

Robert Holland - Macon County Sheriff

"I write this in support of legislation to place additional School Resource Officers in our schools. We need highly trained law enforcement officers protecting our schools, and we need the education of our students to be left up to the highly trained educators... teachers! As an employee of the Macon County Sheriff's Office for 27 years, and 16 of them as Sheriff, I know the importance of these highly trained professionals. It's far more than just a hired gun in a school. It's an opportunity for law enforcement to build partnerships with our community within a school setting.

Along with the much needed added security, it is also incredibly important that rapport amongst our students and faculty are built—and that is what a properly trained SRO does. Yes, he/she is there to keep a safe and secure learning environment for the students but they are to be there for them if ANY other need was to arise. I can give you countless examples from our county how students have approached their friend the SRO and asked for help. I can give you examples of how a young girl or young boy wanted to talk about horrible things that are happening at home and would only talk to her SRO and no one else. I know officers that I work with today who will tell you that they chose their career path because of their School Resource Officers growing up. On a personal level, I have spoken publicly that it is because of my school officers many years ago who worked with me while I was making poor decisions in my life. They didn't throw me away and they didn't give up on me. It is because of those adequately trained school resource officers that I am who I am today. I have spent my entire career trying to be as important to other people as those school resource officers were to me then."

David Mahoney - Transylvania County Sheriff

“As one of the first sheriffs in NC to have School Resource Officers in all of our public schools, I understand the important role they serve. A great SRO program not only helps provide a safe place to teach and learn, but also allows for relationships to form between our officers and the youth we serve. I have seen the trust build through the many programs and interactions made possible by having SROs in our schools.

In Transylvania County, our SROs do not stop when the school year ends. In fact, the support, relationship building and fun just starts to begin as we host several camp experiences designed to foster good leadership and citizenship within our youth.

With this in mind, I wholeheartedly support the effort by Congressman Meadows to allow more funding for the Cops in Schools Program.”

Dudley Greene - McDowell County Sheriff

“Congressman Meadows’ commitment to understanding and helping law enforcement solve tough issues--from combating our country’s opioid crisis to this latest initiative surrounding safety of our schools--makes him not only an ally but a true partner our agency is proud to have. Thank you Congressman Meadows. We are fortunate to have you as our Representative in Washington!”

Gary Banks - Yancey County Sheriff

“From a Law Enforcement perspective I believe that the best way to keep our kids safe is to make each school campus a more difficult place for a bad guy to enter and wreak havoc. The best way to this is with the addition of armed and trained officers. We also must be more responsive to any and all reported potential threats.”

Chief William Hollingsed - Waynesville Police Department

“I would like to take this opportunity to express my full support of the Protect America’s Schools Act of 2018. The presence of School Resource Officers on our

school campuses will definitively enhance the safety of our children. In addition to serving as a deterrent to a potential school shooter, the School Resource Officer also provides for a quick response if a shooting does occur. School Resource Officer Programs also assist in making safe learning environments in our nation's schools. These SRO's provide valuable resources to school staff and faculty members, they foster positive relationships with our youth, and they assist schools and law enforcement agencies to develop strategies to resolve problems and create safer places of learning. I truly believe that proactive, highly trained, and engaged School Resource Officers will make a positive difference in our nation's schools."

Sam Page – Rockingham County Sheriff

"As a career law enforcement officer with more than 30 years' experience, and a former School Resource Officer myself, I think part of the solution begins with putting a professionally trained, armed school resource officer in every school in America.

One thing is certain; we MUST come up with solutions to ensure that there is not one more shooting victim at a school. Will putting a School Resource Officer in every school in America help prevent another tragedy? Sure! Is it the total solution? No... we know that's only one piece of the puzzle. But doing nothing changes nothing, and inaction is unacceptable.

Our children are the future of this country; we MUST do better to safeguard them and we CAN do better.

Additionally, funding for more counselors and making mental health resources more readily available for students can also help schools to remain pro-active and not just reactive.

As one Sheriff in America, I would like to thank you for your efforts and initiative to add School Resource Officers in our schools across the U.S.

This visible deterrent to violence will provide a much needed layer of protection for our children and their teachers. With these School Resource Officers in place, teachers can feel safe as they teach and children can feel safe as they learn."

Sergeant Michelle Archer - North Carolina Association of School Resource Officers (NCASRO)

“After reading this piece of legislation, and discussing it among board members, The North Carolina Association of School Resource Officers (NCASRO) stand in support of Congressman Meadows and his proposed ‘Protect America’s Schools Act of 2018’ bill”