

SEAN P. DUFFY
7TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN



COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, HOUSING AND INSURANCE
CAPITAL MARKETS, SECURITIES AND
INVESTMENTS

WASHINGTON
2330 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4907
PH: (202) 225-3365 • TOLL-FREE: 1-855-585-4251
WEBSITE: duffy.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Ed
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Ed
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you finalize the FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill, I urge you to include language that provides the funding necessary to secure every K-12 school in the United States. Following the enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act, we have a significant opportunity to better address the nation's most outstanding needs. I can think of no greater cause than guaranteeing the safety and well-being of our nation's children in the upcoming Omnibus.

According to the latest data from the National Center for Education Statistics, less than 5 percent of public schools have random metal detector checks, while only 1.8 percent of public schools have daily metal detector checks. More than 6,000 public schools do not even have controlled access to school buildings, and only 7 percent of schools require student badges for entry. Local school districts need to have the means to implement these or other school security measures that work best for them, and money should not be a factor. Our nation's schools are woefully under-secured, and programs to increase school security are underfunded. We must fix that immediately.

As you know, schools receive the majority of funding through state and local taxes, and limited opportunities are available when local funding falls short. In the past, Congress has appropriated money to schools through the Matching Grants Program for School Security, which the House overwhelmingly voted to reauthorize through H.R. 4909, STOP School Violence Act. As a cosponsor of this bill, I support additional funding for this important program. However, H.R.

WAUSAU
208 GRAND AVENUE
WAUSAU, WI 54403
PH: (715) 298-9344 • FAX: (715) 298-9348

HUDSON
502 2ND STREET, SUITE 202
HUDSON, WI 54016
PH: (715) 808-8160 • FAX: (715) 808-8167

HAYWARD
15954 RIVERS EDGE DRIVE, SUITE 206
HAYWARD, WI 54843
PH: (715) 392-3984 • FAX: (715) 392-3999

4909 is only the first of many steps to secure our nation's schools. These institutions should not have to worry about money when it comes to providing security for kids, and they should not be forced to compete with other schools over resources that keep children safe.

Safety and security for our nation's children should be our easiest policy decision as lawmakers and it's time we update our school security strategies to adapt to these new threats. Students have the right to a safe school and we must act now, not later, to provide that security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A.P. Duffy". The letters are stylized and connected.

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress