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**Heller, Hatch and Bipartisan Group of 20 Senators Introduce Critical School Safety Legislation**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) joined Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and a bipartisan group of 20 other senators to introduce the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act of 2018, legislation that funds school security improvements and invests in early intervention and prevention programs to stop school violence before it happens.

The legislation authorizes the Department of Justice to make grants for the purposes of training students, school personnel, and law enforcement to identify signs of violence and intervene to prevent people from hurting themselves or others. In addition to prevention efforts, the legislation funds evidence-based technology and equipment to improve school security and prevent school violence. This includes the development of anonymous reporting systems, and commonsense security infrastructure improvements. The legislation also provides funds for school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams to help schools intake and triage threats before tragedy strikes.

“Every child deserves to feel safe in the classroom, and this bill is a positive step toward assuring Nevada’s kids – and their parents – that we are committed to supporting a coordinated effort to stop school violence,” **said Heller**. “This bill provides critical federal resources to implement early intervention programs, strengthen school security, and help train students, school personnel, and local law enforcement to identify threats and preempt attacks. I thank Chairman Hatch for his leadership, and I look forward to working with him to send this legislation to the President’s desk.”

“By providing critical resources to schools to strengthen their security infrastructure and train teachers, administrators, and law enforcement officers to intervene, we can save countless lives,” **said Hatch.** “As I noted on the Senate floor last week, putting these kinds of critical resources closer to students in Utah has led to incredible success, stopping 86 attacks in schools since 2016. I believe we can replicate that success on a national level with this commonsense, noncontroversial proposal.”

Both the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association and Secure Schools Alliance have expressed support for the bill.

**Background:**

The Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018, or the STOP School Violence Act, reauthorizes and amends the 2001-2009 bipartisan Secure Our Schools Act to offer Department of Justice grants to states to help our schools implement proven, evidence-based programs and technologies that STOP school violence before it happens.

The bill permits grants to fund evidence-based programs and practices to:

* Training to students, school personnel, and local law enforcement to identify and warning signs and intervene to stop school violence before it happens;

* Improve school security infrastructure to deter and respond to threats of school violence, including the development and implementation of anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence;

* Develop and operate school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams; and

* Facilitate coordination between schools and local law enforcement.

The bill would authorize $75 million for FY 2018, and $100 million annually for the next ten years, which may be partially offset from a DOJ research program called the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative.

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