



The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member, Committee on the
Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin:

On behalf of Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit committed to preventing violence and other acts that harm children, we write to share our opposition to [H.R. 2189](#) and [S.1283](#), the Law Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act. This legislation has the potential to deregulate certain TASERS and other less-than-lethal devices currently classified as firearms. While we appreciate Congressional efforts to decrease the potential for lethality during interactions with law enforcement, especially for children, the legislation could create expanded harm to young people and does not increase access to less than lethal technology for law enforcement in a meaningful way.

The Law Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act could also lead to a widespread increase in the availability of less-than-lethal devices, including TASERS, for general-public use. While these devices can cause serious bodily harm when used on adults, they pose an even greater risk to children.¹ Even manufacturers of these devices acknowledge that deploying them on young people increases the risk of death or severe injury.² It is therefore dangerous to expand access to these devices before creating strong guardrails to ensure they are not deployed against children.

Sandy Hook Promise applauds Congress for working on bipartisan legislation to reduce the use of lethal force, and we are eager to work with you if this bill advances out of Committee. We encourage Congress to pursue avenues such as conducting hearings or requesting a study from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide clear guidance around the use of force against youth. We are happy to meet any time with your offices on this issue. Please reach out to our federal policy team (Elizabeth Murphy, Elizabeth.murphy@sandyhookpromise.org) if we can be of any help in achieving the important goal of reducing violence and keeping young people safe.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Murphy
Senior Vice President of Policy and Partnerships
Sandy Hook Promise Action Fund

CC:
Senator Bill Hagerty

¹ https://strategiesforyouth.org/sitefiles/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SFY_Catch-and-Stun_fnl-rev_web.pdf.

² Axon Enterprise, Inc. (2018). *Taser CEW Instructor and User: Warnings, Risks & Release Agreement*.



Senator Ruben Gallego
Representative Scott Fitzgerald
Representative Luis Correa