

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5731

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to secure elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education from acts of terrorism, active shooters, and other homeland security threats, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCCAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

## A BILL

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to secure elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education from acts of terrorism, active shooters, and other homeland security threats, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Securing Our Schools  
5       Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL SECURITY STRATEGY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-  
4 land Security, acting through the Under Secretary respon-  
5 sible for overseeing critical infrastructure protection,  
6 cybersecurity and any other related programs of the De-  
7 partment of Homeland Security referred to in section  
8 103(a)(1)(H) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6  
9 U.S.C. 113(a)(1)(H)), shall develop a Department-wide  
10 strategy on efforts and activities of the Department re-  
11 lated to securing elementary schools, secondary schools,  
12 and institutions of higher education from acts of ter-  
13 rorism, active shooters, and other homeland security  
14 threats.

15 (b) SCOPE.—The strategy required under subsection  
16 (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) A description of the coordination among the  
18 components, directorates, and offices of the Depart-  
19 ment of Homeland Security regarding current and  
20 future efforts and activities related to securing ele-  
21 mentary schools, secondary schools, and institutions  
22 of higher education from acts of terrorism, active  
23 shooters, and other homeland security threats.

24 (2) A description of ongoing efforts and activi-  
25 ties across the components, directorates, and offices  
26 of the Department related to securing such schools

1 and institutions from acts of terrorism, active shoot-  
2 ers, and other homeland security threats.

3 (3) A description of the manner in which the  
4 Department works with State, local, tribal, and ter-  
5 ritorial government organizations on efforts and ac-  
6 tivities related to securing such schools and institu-  
7 tions from acts of terrorism, active shooters, and  
8 other homeland security threats.

9 (4) Recommendations for future efforts and ac-  
10 tivities related to securing such schools and institu-  
11 tions from acts of terrorism, active shooters, and  
12 other homeland security threats, and the promotion  
13 of such efforts and activities.

14 (c) REPORT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
16 the development of the strategy required under sub-  
17 section (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security  
18 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
19 rity of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
20 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-  
21 fairs of the Senate such strategy and brief such  
22 Committees on the operations and activities of the  
23 Department related to securing elementary schools,  
24 secondary schools, and institutions of higher edu-  
25 cation from acts of terrorism, active shooters, and

1 other homeland security threats, and the policies and  
2 procedures developed for coordinating such efforts  
3 and activities.

4 (2) FORM.—The report required under this  
5 subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form  
6 but may contain a classified annex.

7 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY  
9 SCHOOL.—The terms “elementary school” and “sec-  
10 ondary school” have the meanings given such terms  
11 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary  
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

13 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
14 term “institution of higher education” has the  
15 meaning given such term in section 102 in the High-  
16 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

17 **SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS.**

18 Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
19 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)(8), by striking “prepared-  
21 ness” and inserting “security, including planning,  
22 training, exercises, information sharing, and target  
23 hardening activities”; and

24 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
25 following new paragraph:

1 “(6) FIREARMS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded  
3 under section 2003 or 2004 may not be used  
4 for the provision to any person of a firearm or  
5 training in the use of a firearm.

6 “(B) NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Noth-  
7 ing in this paragraph may be construed to pre-  
8 clude or contradict any other provision of law  
9 authorizing the provision of firearms or training  
10 in the use of firearms.”.

11 **SEC. 4. OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Secu-  
13 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by  
14 adding at the end the following new section:

15 **“SEC. 710. OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT.**

16 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
17 the Office of Partnership and Engagement of the Depart-  
18 ment an Office of Academic Engagement.

19 “(b) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Office of Aca-  
20 demic Engagement shall be headed by an Executive Direc-  
21 tor, who shall report to the Assistant Secretary for Part-  
22 nership and Engagement.

23 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—In consultation with the heads of  
24 relevant components, directorates, and offices of the De-

1 partment, as appropriate, the Executive Director shall be  
2 responsible for the following:

3           “(1) Conducting outreach and serving as a liai-  
4           son between the Department and stakeholders in the  
5           academic community, including elementary schools,  
6           secondary schools, and institutions of higher edu-  
7           cation.

8           “(2) Providing information on and awareness of  
9           Department programs and assistance related to se-  
10          curing such schools and institutions from acts of ter-  
11          rorism, active shooters, and other homeland security  
12          threats.

13          “(3) Coordinating, as appropriate, exercises and  
14          vulnerability assessments related to securing such  
15          schools and institutions from acts of terrorism, ac-  
16          tive shooters, and other homeland security threats.

17          “(4) Other activities as determined by the Sec-  
18          retary.

19          “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20                 “(1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY  
21                 SCHOOL.—The terms ‘elementary school’ and ‘sec-  
22                 ondary school’ have the meanings given such terms  
23                 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary  
24                 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1           “(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
2           The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
3           meaning given such term in section 102 in the High-  
4           er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).”.

5           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
6           in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is  
7           amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
8           709 the following new item:

          “Sec. 710. Office of Academic Engagement.”.