

# United States Senate

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February 15, 2008

Senator Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
S-221 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
S-230 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

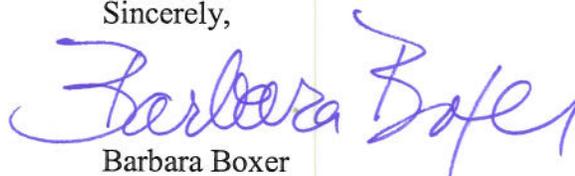
In April 2007, I introduced the School Safety Enhancements Act (S.1217). The bill, introduced in response to the horrific tragedy at Virginia Tech, was intended to improve security for students at our colleges and universities. The bill also provided assistance for K-12 schools to improve school safety measures, including tiplines, surveillance equipment, and capital improvements. I was proud to introduce this bill with Senators Salazar, Lautenberg, Schumer, Durbin, Kennedy and Brown.

On August 2, 2007, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously passed the School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act of 2007 (SSLEIA), which included the K-12 provisions of our school safety bill. However, the SSLEIA has been unable to move to the floor because of concerns with a section of the bill unrelated to the school safety provisions.

Over the past week, there have been five school shootings – three at K-12 schools and two at colleges and universities, including yesterday's tragic shooting at Northern Illinois University. We must take action now so that all students have the opportunity to learn and grow without fear of violence. We must give the families of students the peace of mind that comes with knowing that their loved ones are safe.

The time for action is now. I ask that the Judiciary Committee discharge our bill – S.1217 – so that we may pass this important legislation as soon as we return from recess on February 25, 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Boxer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator