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DHI and Door Security & Safety Foundation Support STOP School Violence Act

CHANTILLY, VA (Mar. 8, 2018) – DHI – Door Security + Safety Professionals and the Door Security + Safety Foundation (DSSF) strongly support the federal STOP School Violence Act legislation (S. 2475) to help schools and communities stop violence before it happens by providing resources focused on early intervention and school safety infrastructure.

The Student, Teachers and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 (the STOP School Violence Act) would reauthorize and amend the 2001-2009 bipartisan Secure Our Schools Act to offer Department of Justice (DOJ) grants to states, ultimately helping schools implement proven, evidence-based programs and technologies that stop school violence before it happens.

The STOP School Violence Act will fund four initiatives:

- Evidence-based training to prevent student violence against others and self, including training for local law enforcement officers, school personnel, and students.
- Evidence-based technology and equipment to improve school security and prevent violent attacks.
- The development and operation of evidence-based school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams, which may include evidence-based training for school officials in responding to mental health crises.
- Continued coordination with local law enforcement.

The bill would authorize \$75 million for FY 2018, and \$100 million annually for the next 10 years, which may be partially offset from a DOJ research program called the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative. Introduced by U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, it is bipartisan legislation with 22 co-sponsors, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

“This bill is an important step in providing communities with much-needed funds to improve school security infrastructure and security technology, to protect our most precious natural resource – our children,” said Jerry Heppes, CAE, CEO of DHI and the Door Security + Safety Foundation. “We understand how important safety is to the school community because our members design and build door openings that address a variety of scenarios.

“Our industry takes that responsibility seriously. That’s what motivated our industry to launch the Foundation, to focus on awareness and education for building design communities, code officials, code authorities, and those who manage facilities on a daily basis – supported by an industry that really understands that critical role in every building, every day.

“The Foundation’s *Opening the Door to School Safety* campaign raises awareness and educates school administrators about the importance of safely securing classroom doors with code-compliant methods. We advocate the use of door security and safety professionals, who are trained to ensure that every entrance meets code and can provide the invaluable balance of life safety and security for schools and classrooms.

“DHI is proud to support this important legislation, and we urge Congress to move quickly on this.”

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About DHI

DHI is an association proudly serving door security and safety professionals, and the dynamic companies they represent, in the non-residential construction industry. Through education, advocacy, accreditation and facilitated networking, we provide members with the collective intelligence to meet the security and safety needs of their customers. Visit www.dhi.org.

About the Door Security + Safety Foundation

The Door Security & Safety Foundation’s mission is to promote secure and safe openings that enhance life safety through awareness, education and advocacy. Through our work, we help stakeholders understand the code implications and complexity of products and applications. Visit www.doorsecuritysafety.org.

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