



H.R. 6538, the Active Shooter Alert Act Fact Sheet

Active shooter incidents have been on the rise over the last two decades. Between 2000 and 2020, the FBI identified 373 active shooter incidents across 43 states and the District of Columbia, leading to 1,100 people killed and 1,915 wounded. These incidents continued to rise in 2021, with the FBI designating 61 events as active shooter incidents, resulting in the deaths of 103 Americans, excluding perpetrators.

Responding to an active shooter incident can be chaotic, especially when it is not confined to one location, as is increasingly the case. Our existing communications tools already provide authenticated emergency information to the public through geotargeted mobile phone messages. Specifically, the Federal Emergency Management Agency manages the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System to warn the public of natural or human-made disasters, extreme weather events, and America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alerts. This system can be used for active shooter incidents, but since there are not protocols or trainings in place for this use, law enforcement is generally not equipped to use this potentially lifesaving tool to warn the public about an active shooter.

H.R. 6538, the Active Shooter Alert Act, would adapt this existing alert system to establish an Active Shooter Alert Network, enabling law enforcement to send active shooter alerts within their communities. It would also use the expertise of those in law enforcement, public safety, emergency management, and telecommunications to establish best practices for issuance of these alerts.

This bipartisan legislation is endorsed by the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Association of Police Organizations, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Police Foundation, the National Sheriffs' Association, National District Attorneys Association, and numerous state and local law enforcement organizations.

H.R. 6538 would:

- Use existing communications technology to create an Active Shooter Alert Communications Network
- Require the Attorney General to appoint a Coordinator for the Active Shooter Alert Communications Network
- Direct the Coordinator to establish an Advisory Panel consisting of law enforcement officers who have responded to active shooter incidents, joined by experts in public safety, emergency response, city planning, and mental and behavioral health to make recommendations to the Coordinator
- Direct the Coordinator to establish best practices using the recommendations of the Advisory Panel and in coordination with FEMA, DOT, and FCC, local broadcasters, and federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies for the issuance of alerts through the network
- Require the Comptroller General to study the effectiveness of active shooter alert systems and other public alerts and warnings and provide a report to Congress
- Authorize \$2 million to carry out the Act

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