



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4323

June 3, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

Thank you for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) efforts in responding to the horrible tragedy that took place in Uvalde on May 24, 2022, when a shooter entered Robb Elementary School and killed nineteen students and two educators and wounded 17 others. In the coming days, Uvalde will need continued federal support to recover. Victims of this tragedy will need physical, emotional, and financial support, and there are several DOJ grant programs Uvalde could benefit from as the community begins the long road to healing. I urge you to expeditiously approve federal grant requests related to the tragedy in Uvalde.

Local and state law enforcement are stretched thin after responding to this emergency. The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance (EFLEA) Program could help address budgetary shortfalls resulting from this incident. The EFLEA Program assists state and local law enforcement in responding to emergencies to help offset the costs of responding to emergencies. I also urge you to continue to provide support to victims through the Office of Victims of Crime.

There are also proactive grants that the Uvalde community could benefit from to help prevent future school violence. Specifically, I request your support for Uvalde-related grant applications for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring program. The COPS program awards grants to state and local law enforcement agencies to advance the practice of community policing, and funds are eligible to hire school resource officers, which would benefit Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District.

Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District could also benefit from COPS' Students, Teachers, Officers, Parents (STOP) School Violence Program. This program provides funding for evidence-based programs to improve physical school security, train school personnel and students to prevent student violence, develop anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence including hotlines and mobile telephone applications, and acquisition of technology for notification of local law enforcement during an emergency.

Thank you for your continued support for Uvalde. I stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Gonzales".

Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress