



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
RICHMOND

**M. KIRKLAND "KIRK" COX**  
**SPEAKER**

SPEAKER'S ROOM - STATE CAPITOL  
POST OFFICE BOX 406  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

March 8, 2018

The Honorable G. Paul Nardo  
Clerk of the House of Delegates  
State Capitol  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Recent tragedies involving unimaginable violence in our nation's schools have renewed questions about state and local policies intended to safeguard and protect our children. It is our responsibility to ensure our schools are safe and that students can learn free from the fear of violence. Toward this end, the Virginia General Assembly has taken steps in recent years to strengthen school security. However, this issue is so complex and multi-faceted that it requires a special and dedicated review process beyond the time constraints of the current session.

School safety is a fundamental public policy issue that encompasses the purviews and jurisdiction of multiple standing House committees. Therefore, I am appointing a Select Committee on School Safety to review comprehensively state and local policies relating to school security and protection.

The committee's scope of work will be limited to strengthening emergency preparedness, hardening school security infrastructure, implementing security best practices, deploying additional security personnel, providing additional behavioral health resources for students, and developing prevention protocols at primary and secondary institutions across the Commonwealth. The Select Committee will make policy recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly during the 2019 Session.

As you know, the appointment of a Select Committee by the Speaker is uncommon, yet not unprecedented. A Select Committee may be appointed in instances where a subject matter of considerable significance falls beyond the parameters of conventional and established standing committees. This appointment of a Select Committee is consistent with House Rules, past practices and long-standing customs of the House dating back a century.

The Select Committee will be comprised of 22 members of the House of Delegates and will reflect the principle of proportional representation. I am appointing the following members to the House Select Committee on School Safety:

Kirk Cox (Chair), Steve Landes, Chris Jones, Tommy Wright, Rob Bell, Danny Marshall (Vice Chair), Todd Gilbert, Chris Peace, Barry Knight, Roxann Robinson, Israel O'Quinn, Nick Rush,

Vivian Watts, Mark Sickles, David Toscano, Charniele Herring, Luke Torian, Paul Krizek, Steve Heretick, Mike Mullin, Jeff Bourne, Schuyler VanValkenburg,

The Committee will be supported primarily by the House Clerk's Office, with technical support provided by the Division of Legislative Services and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. In addition to in-house staff support, the Committee may contract with outside vendors for specific and specialized support at any time during the Committee's work. Further, I authorize the House Clerk's Office to pay interim compensation and issue reimbursements for member travel associated with the Committee's work.

The Committee will have an organizational meeting no later than May 1, 2018 and may have as many as four meetings in Richmond, unless otherwise noted. The Committee shall complete its work by November 15, 2018 and produce a final report containing recommendations for the 2019 General Assembly Session no later than December 15, 2018.

I am proud of the steps we have taken in recent years to protect our schools, but I will be asking this committee to undertake the important job of finding ways we can do even more to protect our children. I have full confidence we will be able to work in a bipartisan manner to seek practical, common-sense solutions that we can propose to our colleagues for consideration next session.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirk Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kirk Cox

CC: The Honorable C. Todd Gilbert  
The Honorable David J. Toscano