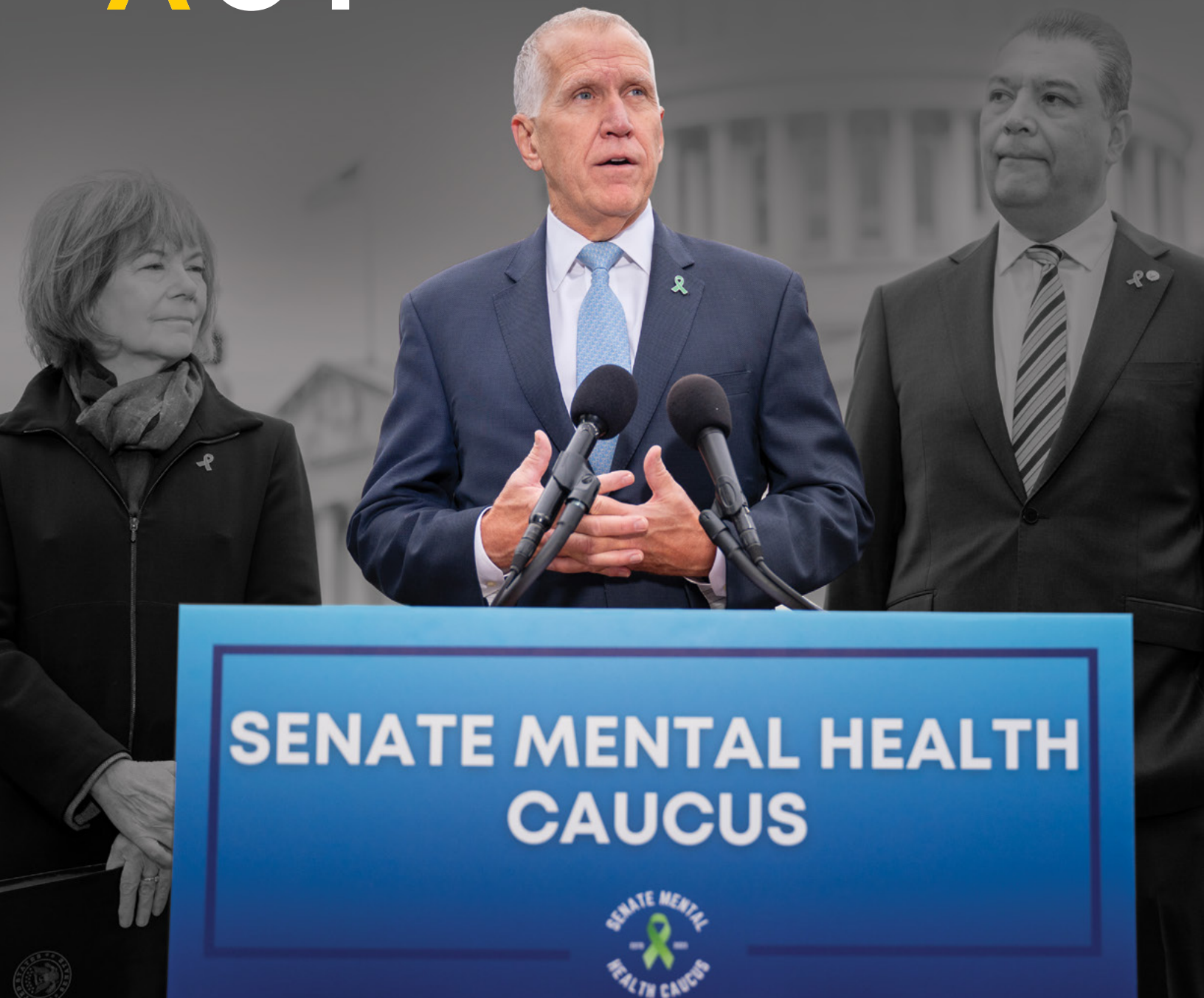


BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT



SENATE MENTAL HEALTH
CAUCUS





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How BSCA Came Together

In the wake of the horrific school shooting in Uvalde, Texas in the summer of 2022, a bipartisan group of senators, including myself, John Cornyn (R-TX), Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), and Chris Murphy (D-CT) began meeting to discuss ways to help prevent community violence.

We focused on identifying solutions to improve mental health services, strengthen school safety, reduce violence, and protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

We succeeded in our efforts, and the result was the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), which passed the Senate and House and was signed into law in June 2022.

BSCA is the first community safety legislation passed in three decades, and it is also the largest investment in both mental health care and school safety in our nation's history. We are already seeing the positive impacts of this historic law.



BSCA PROGRESS REPORT

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

The largest investment in mental health care in American history.

EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS

NATIONWIDE

COMING SOON TO NORTH CAROLINA

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING

46,000

STUDENTS TO RECEIVE SCREENINGS

CONTACTS ANSWERED BY 988 LIFELINE

10 MILLION+

INCLUDING MORE THAN 100,000 IN NORTH CAROLINA

NEW MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

14,000

PROFESSIONALS TO BE HIRED TO WORK IN SCHOOLS

MENTAL FIRST AID TRAINING

362,000

FIRST RESPONDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BE TRAINED

CHILD TRAUMA MITIGATION

4,000

TEACHERS TO BE TRAINED TO HELP CHILDREN

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Protecting the Second Amendment while keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals.

JUVENILE RECORD CONSIDERATION

0.31%

TRANSACTIONS DENIED BECAUSE OF DISQUALIFYING CRIMINAL/MENTAL HEALTH RECORD

794

FIREARMS KEPT OUT OF THE HANDS OF PROHIBITED INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE OF DISQUALIFYING RECORDS UNDER BSCA

260,000+

UNDER-21 TRANSACTIONS PROCESSED IN TOTAL

STRAW PURCHASE ENHANCED PENALTIES

107

CASES FILED

190

DEFENDANTS CHARGED

GUN TRAFFICKING ENHANCED PENALTIES

223

CASES FILED

423

DEFENDANTS CHARGED

CLOSING BOYFRIEND LOOPHOLE

NICS DATA INDICATES THE NEW PROVISION HAS ALREADY BEEN EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING SOME ABUSIVE AND VIOLENT DATING PARTNERS FROM ACCESSING FIREARMS

SCHOOL SAFETY & STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The largest investment in school safety in American history.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

\$1,000,000,000

INCLUDING FIGHTING BULLYING, SUPPORTING MENTAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS

EXPANDING MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS

\$1,000,000,000

TO HIRE AND TRAIN SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

\$200,000,000

INCLUDING SAFETY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, THREAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

\$200,000,000

TO INCREASE COORDINATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, INSTALL NEW SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE



MENTAL
HEALTH
CARE

BSCA is the largest investment in mental health care in American history.

The substantial investments in mental health care included in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act fulfill an unrealized promise that the government made when deinstitutionalization began in the 1960s. The goal of deinstitutionalization was to transition individuals away from long-term psychiatric hospital stays with less isolated, more convenient community-based care alternatives. The government tragically did not hold up their end of the deal and to this day we are seeing the consequences of inaction.

Without a comprehensive mental and behavioral health safety net that meets people where they are and serves those in need of mental health care, many Americans have struggled with invisible mental health needs. Too often, those in crisis cannot find the proper care or face unacceptable stigma in seeking care. Physical and mental health care are intrinsically intertwined and Americans will continue to face hurdles in achieving a happy and productive life if we don't acknowledge this fact, increase access to care, and reduce stigma.

The government's unfulfilled promise has made it nearly impossible for individuals with mental illness to find appropriate care at the appropriate time. As a result, our criminal justice system and other community services have been left to fill the vacuum. Law enforcement officers – not mental health professionals – are often first responders to mental health crises, creating stressful situations and unnecessarily burdening law enforcement resources. Roughly half of Americans in jails and prisons have some kind of mental health disorder, far above the average population.

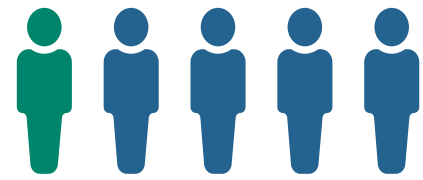
It is long past time for the federal government to address the failures of deinstitutionalization and work to fulfill its promise of providing Americans with adequate support and resources.

BSCA takes a big step toward fulfilling that promise, making the largest investment in mental health care in our nation's history by investing in programs that have already proven to get real results.

Tom Tillis



THE SCOPE OF AMERICA'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS



1 in 5 American adults live with a mental illness, equivalent to **60 million** Americans. Only about half have received mental health services.

~30M

That means **nearly 30 million** Americans living with a mental illness haven't received mental health services. That is three times the population of North Carolina.



1 in 20 American adults lives with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression, equivalent to **14 million** Americans.

= 14M

35%

35% of adults with serious mental illness received **NO** treatment.

>5M

That means more than **5 million** Americans with a mental illness haven't received treatment. That's half the population of North Carolina.

The most common reasons for the 5 million people with a serious mental illness who are not receiving treatment:

47%

Say they can't afford the cost

25%

Say they don't know where to go for help

24%

Say they can handle it without treatment

20%

Say they are concerned about taking medicine or being committed

19%

Say they don't have time

BSCA INVESTMENTS TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTH



\$8.6B

To expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) across America



\$250M

To strengthen comprehensive community mental health services



\$130M

To increase access to children's behavioral health services using telehealth



\$120M

To prepare and train community members and first responders in mental health first aid



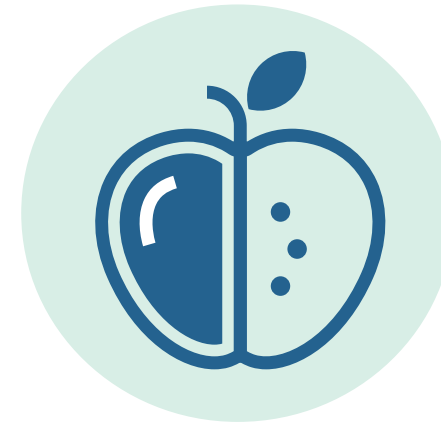
\$240M

To bolster school-based mental health infrastructure



\$150M

To implement the 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



\$60M

To provide mental health training to primary care clinicians for children



\$40M

To improve behavioral health services for children exposed to trauma

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS

CCBHCs are a game-changer for mental health.

Established by Congress in 2014, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) have essentially operated as a pilot program to provide around-the-clock mental health and substance use disorder services to communities across the nation. CCBHCs have been proven to be highly effective for people who utilize their services, resulting in significant reductions in homelessness, jail time, and hospital emergency room visits.

Given the proven track record of success, BSCA made a historical investment to significantly expand CCBHCs across the nation. BSCA provides \$8.6 billion over ten years, with 10 states being selected to start a demonstration program every two years.

BSCA provides
\$8.6B
to expand CCBHCs
across America



The average national wait time to receive mental health care services

=

48 days

CCBHCs deliver faster access to quality mental health services.

50%

Receive Same-Day Service

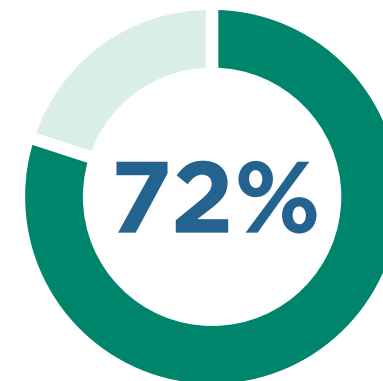
84%

Receive Service Within a Week

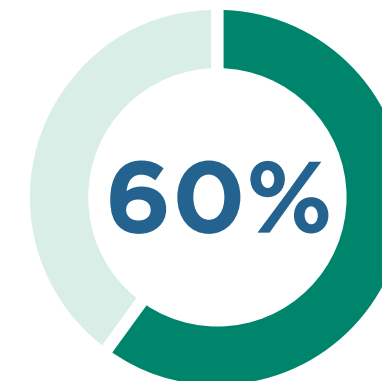
93%

Receive Service Within 10 Days

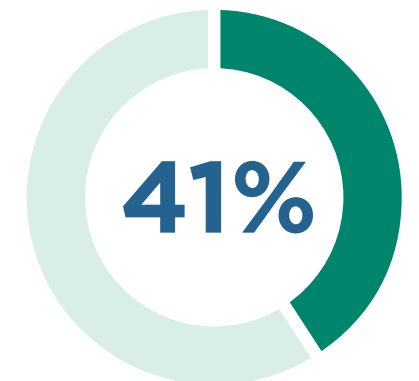
CCBHCs have proven to make a real difference.



Reduction in Hospitalization



Less Time in Jails



Reduction in Homelessness

For every \$1 invested in substance use care

=

\$4 - \$7 return in one year

For every \$1 invested in mental health like depression and anxiety

=

up to \$3 return in one year, growing to \$7 over time

How CCBHCs Work

01

Access

Clinics provide 365/24/7 access to mental health and substance use disorder services, regardless of one's insurance status or ability to pay.

02

Quality

Clinics must meet rigorous criteria, which include staffing, availability of services, scope of services, and quality measurements and tracking.

03

Funding

Clinics receive flexible funding to account for an increasing number of patients and to fully meet the needs of their communities. Funding is normally through the demonstration program via Medicaid or SAMHSA grants.

04

Core Services

CCBHCs are required to provide nine core services.

1. Crisis Services
2. Treatment Planning
3. Screening, Assessment, Diagnosis and Risk Assessment
4. Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Use Services
5. Targeted Case Management
6. Outpatient Primary Care Screening and Monitoring
7. Community-Based Mental Health Care for Veterans
8. Peer, Family Support and Counselor Services
9. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services



In 2023, North Carolina was one of 15 states awarded a one-year planning grant created under BSCA, enabling it to compete to become one of the first states to participate in the expanded demonstration program.



Success Story: The 988 Lifeline Is Saving Lives

When 24-year-old Marie texted 9-8-8 last December, she was in the middle of a dissociative episode that left her unable to speak. “I just remember shaking and being on the floor and not knowing how to get my soul back to my body,” Marie says. “All I could feel was fear.” Over the course of an hour, a counselor helped Marie reconnect with her senses in part by encouraging her to take concrete steps like making a cup of hot chocolate and running her hands under warm and cold water.

Marie’s therapist just that week had suggested 988 could be helpful in a crisis. The line connected Marie to a counselor who kept communicating with her until she felt better. “It’s what I needed. I’m really thankful,” Marie says.

Source: National Public Radio

THE 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE

A life-saving resource already being utilized by millions of Americans.

\$150 Million Investment

BSCA helped jumpstart the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by providing a \$150 billion investment, which helped to increase call center capacity and improve response times in all states. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers Americans 24/7 phone, text, and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help them if they are experiencing suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, emotional distress, or a mental health crisis. Americans who are worried about a loved one who needs crisis support can also reach out to 9-8-8.

Since its launch in July 2022, the 988 Lifeline has received and routed more than 8 million calls, texts, and chats, and has been a resounding success in North Carolina.

Success Story: North Carolina’s 988 Lifeline

108,658
calls, texts, chats over
the last 12 months

14.2
seconds average time
to answer calls

98%
answer rate

90%
of callers with thoughts of
suicide reported improvement in
how they were feeling by
the end of their call

PROJECT AWARE: SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

\$240 Million Investment

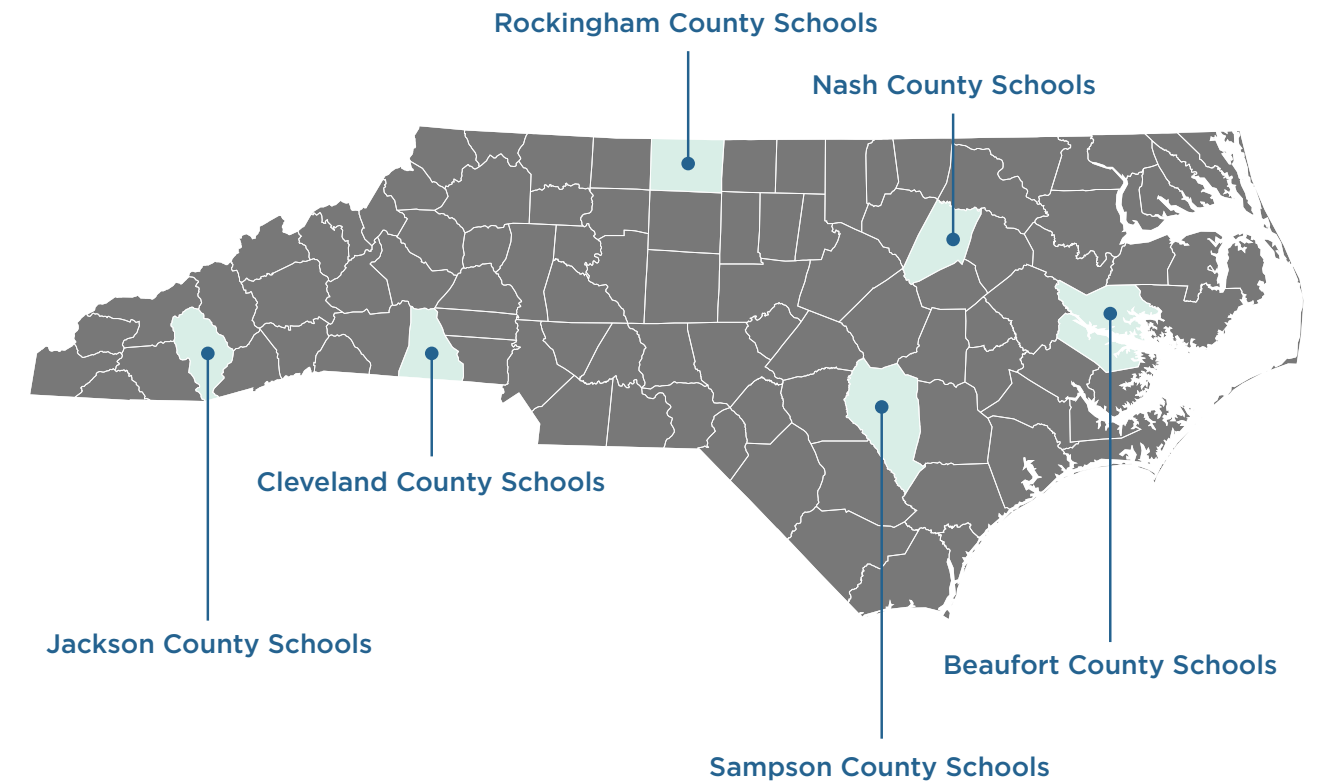
4,000 teachers and school personnel will be trained in recognizing and mitigating the effects of trauma

46,000 children will be screened for trauma and mental health

15,000 youth and young adults will receive trauma-informed behavioral health services



Pilot Sites in North Carolina



Project AWARE provides competitive grants for programs that increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth, and provides training for school personnel and other adults.

North Carolina's Project AWARE/ACTIVATE is a collaboration between the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Well-Being to develop a comprehensive plan of activities, services, and strategies for connecting youth and families to mental health services in six pilot school districts.

North Carolina was selected as a 2018-2023 and a 2021-2026 grantee for Project AWARE, and six local rural education agencies were selected as pilot sites. North Carolina's Project AWARE, also known as North Carolina ACTIVATE, addresses three tiers of mental health: promotion, prevention, and intervention.

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, and Division of Child and Family Well-Being work together to develop a comprehensive plan of activities, services, and strategies for the grantees that can subsequently be scaled statewide.



Project AWARE Results in North Carolina

Results from the original three pilot sites (Beaufort, Cleveland, and Rockingham County Schools):

1. Training, professional development, and coaching of faculty, staff, and mental health professionals.
 - **68 training sessions** in 2021-2022.
 - **5,000+ faculty, staff, and mental health professionals** trained.
 - **16 mental health practices** in place to support school-based mental health services.
2. Offering universal mental health screening.
 - All three N.C. sites demonstrated mental health promotion activities that were above the state average, including their efforts to use best practices for mental health referrals. More than **87 percent of teachers** at each of the sites reported that their school provides quality services to help students with social or emotional needs.
3. Significant decreases in suspensions of students that correspond with a noticeable reduction in bullying and harassment incidents.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

\$250 Million Investment

The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) program provides grants to provide comprehensive community mental health services for adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances. States and territories are the grantees.

Before the passage of BSCA, North Carolina received a \$24.3 million grant for FY22.

This funding is used to fund priority treatment and support services for individuals without insurance and for priority treatment and support services for low-income individuals who are not covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance.



CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL TELEHEALTH

\$130 Million Investment

BSCA provides \$80 million to expand pediatric mental health care access. Grants will support primary pediatric care providers and provide them with access to behavioral health specialists to help guide their treatment of young patients. It will also help expand telehealth into emergency departments and schools.

BSCA also provides \$50 million in grants for schools to increase access to behavioral health services through telehealth under Medicaid and CHIP.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING

\$120 Million Investment

362,000 community members and first responders will be trained in mental health first aid

14,000+ new mental health professionals are projected to be hired in schools across the country, including 332 in North Carolina

Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) prepares and trains community members and first responders on appropriately responding to individuals with mental health challenges and disorders, particularly individuals with a serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbances.

MHAT grants are awarded to organizations to implement evidence-based mental health awareness training. Grantees provide this evidence-based training to the mental health and related workforce, education systems, first responders, law enforcement, service organizations, and others who interface with youth and adults at risk for mental health and substance use challenges. BSCA will provide \$120 million in new funding for MHAT, which will support North Carolina grantees.

The following represent a few examples of the types of grantees that will benefit from new investment opportunities provided by BSCA:

Poe Center for Health Education

Raleigh, N.C.

This MHAT project serves Wake and Johnston Counties and will increase the capacity to provide support for youth experiencing mental health or addiction challenges or crises and increase the capacity for first responders and medical professionals to respond to youth in mental health crises.

This project will provide training to more than 2,200 individuals, including:

- 1,420 youth-serving adults.
- 250 medical professionals and first responders.
- 585 youth in teen mental health first aid.

Kellin Foundation

Greensboro, N.C.

The Kellin Foundation, in partnership with Guilford County Schools, will implement an MHAT project to provide targeted and evidence-based training to school personnel (with a particular focus on school support staff) and parents of middle and high school students.

This project will train 1,800 individuals over a five-year period.

Madison County

Marshall, N.C.

The Madison MHAT project will increase community capacity to identify, support, safely de-escalate, and engage youth and adults exhibiting signs and symptoms of serious mental illness by providing evidence-based training.

The project will provide training to 500 individuals, including:

- 350 local educators, school nurses, and paraprofessionals; public and community health and social services staff; emergency services personnel; and other professionals.
- 150 community members, including coaches and 4-H leaders, to whom an individual may turn or engage positively.



PEDIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS

\$60 million investment

BSCA provides \$60 million for mental health training for primary care clinicians who treat children and youth. Training is for professionals to care for populations with substance use disorders and mental illnesses.

“Often the first person you turn to when you or your kids need mental health support is your trusted primary care provider—yet for too long, we haven’t given those primary care providers the mental health training they need to help. With funding from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Health Resources and Services Administration is investing in making mental health a part of primary care training so that there is no wrong door when your family needs support.”

Carole Johnson
HHS Administrator of HRSA



NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS INITIATIVE

\$40 Million Investment

More than 12,500 children and adolescents exposed to trauma will be screened

The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI) was created by Congress in 2000 with the goal of transforming mental health care for children and adolescents affected by traumatic experiences by improving the quality of community-based trauma treatment and services.

The NCTSI accomplishes this goal by providing funding to four groups of grantees and stakeholders, which are collectively known as the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN):

The National Center for Child Traumatic Stress

Responsible for promoting leadership and collaboration across the NCTSN and disseminating program and intervention products.

Treatment and Service Adaptation Centers

Responsible for identifying, developing, and improving treatment approaches for different types of childhood trauma.

Community Treatment and Services Centers

Responsible for providing and evaluating the effectiveness of trauma treatment in community and service settings.

Affiliate Members

Comprised of former NCTSN members that continue to contribute to the goal through ongoing work in their communities.



COMMUNITY SAFETY



Protecting Our Communities and Constitutional Rights

I've been an outspoken supporter of Second Amendment rights and a proud gun owner my entire adult life. I would never support legislation that violates the constitutional rights of law-abiding North Carolinians.

BSCA is not a gun control bill. While a few loud voices have claimed the contrary, BSCA simply does not infringe on the rights of law-abiding Americans.

Dangerous criminals are the only people who should be concerned about BSCA's new penalties. The few gun-related provisions in BSCA are about keeping guns out of the wrong hands: *the kind of criminals that everyone can agree should not be able to legally purchase firearms.*

BSCA has given prosecutors new tools to go after illegal arms traffickers that have exploited previous laws and endangered the lives of innocent Americans. Gang members and drug cartels are being held accountable as a result.

I hope you take the opportunity to use this book to separate fact from fiction and learn about how BSCA is helping keep more Americans safe while protecting their constitutional rights.

Tom Tillis

JUVENILE RECORD LOOPHOLE

The Problem

Adults are prohibited from purchasing a firearm for a number of reasons: being convicted of a felony, being convicted of a serious misdemeanor (punishable by more than two years in prison), being an unlawful user or addicted to a controlled substance, or being involuntarily committed by a judge to a mental health facility because of a serious mental illness.

Before BSCA, one of the biggest blind spots in federal law was that we did not consider juvenile records in our background check system. This meant that every 18-year-old started with a blank slate, even if they committed a serious offense months before.

Consider this hypothetical: a gang member who has an extensive juvenile criminal record—with several convictions all before he became a legal adult—walks into a gun store and is able to pass a background check and legally purchase a rifle.

It's hard to believe, but just a few years ago that gang member could have been approved for the purchase because their extensive juvenile record was sealed and not considered in their background check.

The Solution

BSCA closed the juvenile record loophole. Now, 18, 19, and 20 year olds must have their adult and juvenile records reviewed during a background check, instead of only their adult records. BSCA simply makes the law more consistent: if someone under the age of 21 engages in conduct that prohibits you from purchasing a firearm, it no longer matters whether it happened before or after their 18th birthday. Instead, investigators will be able to see the juvenile records of potentially dangerous individuals and prevent them from purchasing a firearm.

The Results

Only 0.31% of transactions (or less than 800) of purchasers under the age of 21 have been denied because of BSCA's enhanced review of juvenile records. This has resulted in some individuals with troubling criminal records or a recent adjudication of serious mental instability posing a danger to themselves or others to be denied and wait until they are 21 to legally purchase a firearm.

Did BSCA change the age to purchase a firearm?

No, there are no changes. Federal law has long prohibited 18 to 20-year-olds from purchasing handguns, but they are allowed to purchase shotguns and rifles. For example, there have been over 250,000 approvals for under 21 purchasers since the enactment of BSCA.

Did BSCA create new mandatory wait periods for purchasers?

No, it did not. In fact, even with an enhanced review of an applicant's juvenile record if they are between the ages of 18 to 20, the data shows this age group is not experiencing additional wait periods if they are not disqualified from making a purchase.

Does having a juvenile record permanently disqualify someone from purchasing a firearm?

No, it does not. The additional checks only occur for 18, 19, and 20 year olds. Once the individual turns 21, they can legally purchase a firearm so long as they have avoided an adult record that would also prohibit them from purchasing a firearm.

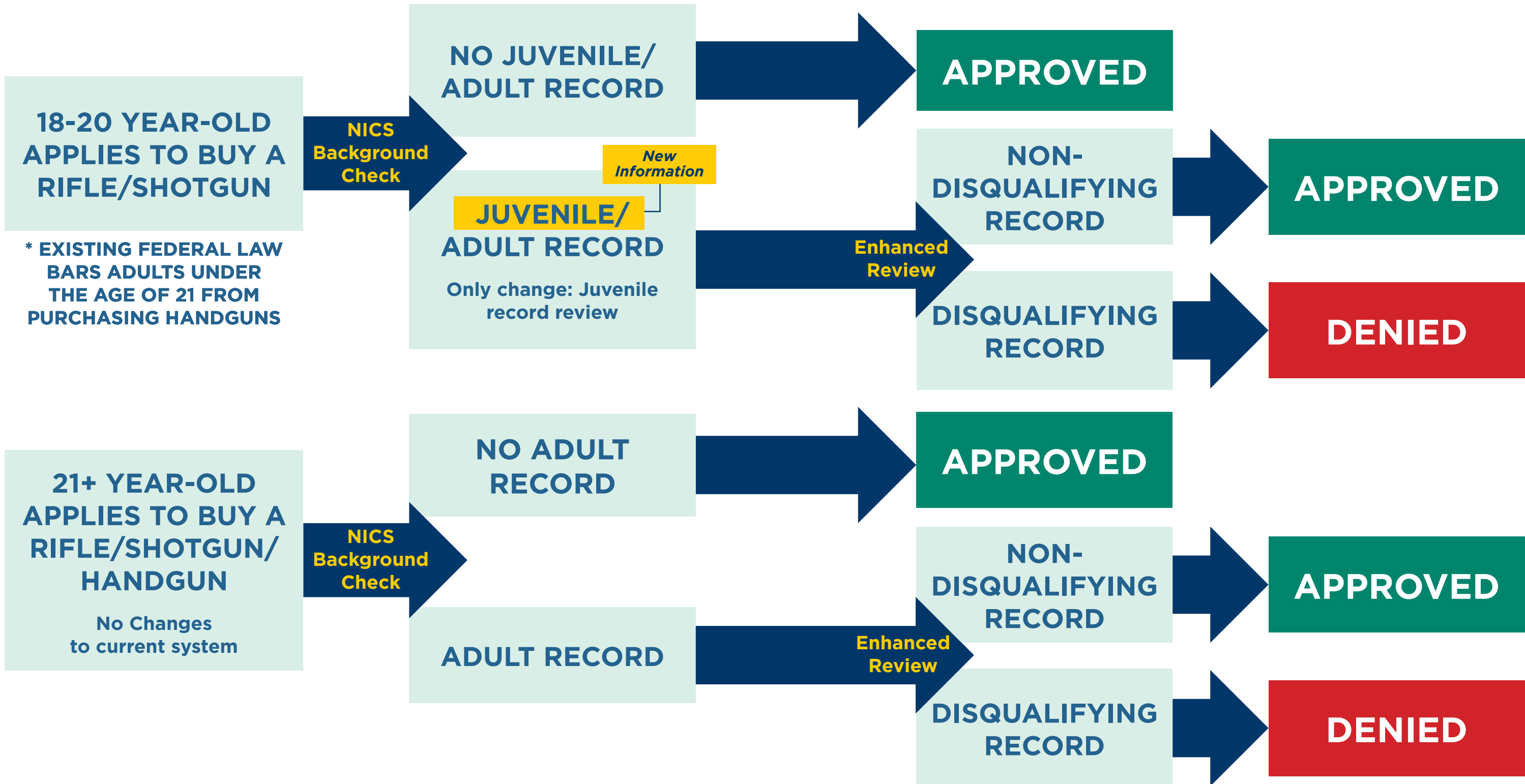
Real Result in North Carolina

A 19-year-old male was denied purchasing a firearm in North Carolina following BSCA's enhanced juvenile background check. The county sheriff's office advised that they transported the individual for involuntary commitment to a mental health facility. The county district court provided additional information on the case pertaining to the involuntary commitment.

The individual threatened to kill his mother, stating he would "blow her head off" and kill her in her sleep, as a culmination of significant mood and behavior problems as well as noncompliance with outpatient treatment. The individual was determined to be a danger to himself or others and needed further inpatient psychiatric treatment and stabilization.



IMPROVING DATA FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS



STRAW PURCHASES

The Problem

One thing all Americans can agree on is that guns should not end up in the hands of dangerous criminals. Unfortunately, these criminals have long exploited loopholes to obtain firearms through a “straw purchase” – which is when an individual who cannot legally purchase a firearm has another individual with a “clean” criminal record purchase a firearm on their behalf. These firearms are then often used to commit crimes.

National data estimates that there are more than 30,000 attempted straw purchases every year.

The Solution

BSCA provides new tools for law enforcement to hold illegal straw purchasers accountable if:

1. the purchaser knows or has reasonable cause to believe the actual buyer cannot legally purchase a firearm;
2. the purchaser intends to carry or use the firearm to commit a felony, act of terrorism, or drug trafficking; or
3. the purchaser plans to sell the firearm to another individual who is likely to use it in a crime.

Under BSCA, straw purchasing is now punishable by up to 15 years in prison if the actual buyer cannot legally purchase a firearm.

Additionally, straw purchasing can carry an up to 25-year sentence if there is reasonable cause to believe the firearm will be used in a felony, terrorist attack, or drug trafficking.

The Results

Nationwide Prosecutions for Straw Purchases

107
Cases File

190
Defendants Charged



Real Result in North Carolina

In 2024, a straw purchaser, Ever Arroyo Gasga, was caught on surveillance video purchasing two firearms. He was joined by Anselmo Arroyo Gonzalez, a 49-year-old illegal immigrant who was previously deported, Jimmy Arroyo Maldonado, an 18-year-old who was prohibited from purchasing firearms because he was under indictment for felonies, including felony fleeing arrest, and J'marree Andre Smith, a 20-year-old who was a known drug dealer.

Maldonado received a call from a prison inmate later that day asking “if they got it” to which he responded with “yes.”

Only two weeks later, one of the firearms, a Glock 23, .40 caliber pistol, was used by Smith to commit a murder in Raleigh.

Thanks to the enhanced penalties in BSCA, the three criminals who didn't commit the murder but assisted in the straw purchase now face significant time in prison for their role in the straw purchase that led to the murder.

GUN TRAFFICKING

The Problem

Dangerous criminals and criminal enterprises like drug cartels have exploited the lack of a specific federal law punishing illegal gun trafficking. This meant prosecutors were forced to push for a lower sentences in many cases where dangerous criminals were on trial.

There is an entire network of illegal gun trafficking across America, allowing firearms to end up in the wrong hands and fueling gun and gang violence. The crisis at our Southern border has also been amplified by cartels that make their riches by smuggling firearms out of the United States and smuggling illicit drugs like fentanyl into the United States.

- **60% of the recipients** of trafficked firearms were convicted felons, according to a DOJ study.
- Trafficked firearms were used in **homicides in 265 cases, attempted homicide in 222 cases, and aggravated assaults in 446 cases.**
- Prior to BSCA, **3 out of 4 illegal gun prosecutions** were for the lesser charge of simple gun possession because there was no federal law on gun trafficking and straw purchasing.

The Solution

BSCA makes gun trafficking a federal crime, giving law enforcement and prosecutors a powerful new tool to hold gangs, cartels, and serious violent criminals accountable through tougher penalties and longer prison sentences.

Under BSCA, conspiring to illegally sell firearms is punishable to up to 15 years in prison.

The Results

The criminal penalty for gun trafficking implemented by BSCA has been a particularly useful tool for federal law enforcement to go after drug cartels and their weapon smuggling, including prosecutions of criminals who smuggled firearms from North Carolina.

Nationwide Prosecutions for Gun Trafficking

223
Cases Filed

423
Defendants Charged

Real Result in North Carolina

Illegal Gun Trafficking

While North Carolina is nearly 2,000 miles away

from the Southern border, cartels still run their businesses through the Tar Heel state. In 2023, five individuals were charged by the Department of Justice for conspiracy to smuggle guns purchased in North Carolina to Mexico.

The conspiracy involved two individuals who purchased at least 17 firearms—most of them AK-47 style rifles—from federally licensed firearms dealers and lied by certifying they were the “actual transferee/buyer” of the firearm. They later transferred the firearms to an illegal immigrant and conspired to transport the firearms with others to Mexico. The firearms were intercepted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers at the Del Rio, Texas port of entry, and the vehicle carrying the firearms was traveling to Durango, Mexico.

All five individuals involved in the firearm smuggling conspiracy were charged under BSCA’s new gun trafficking criminal provision, and now face up to 15 years in prison from the charge.

“The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act allows us to investigate and prosecute gun trafficking and straw purchasing rings that drive the flow of guns from the United States to Mexico, often fueling cartel violence in that country while enabling the fentanyl crisis here at home. Those who engage in international gunrunning conspiracies based in North Carolina will meet justice in our courts.”

U.S. Attorney Michael Easley

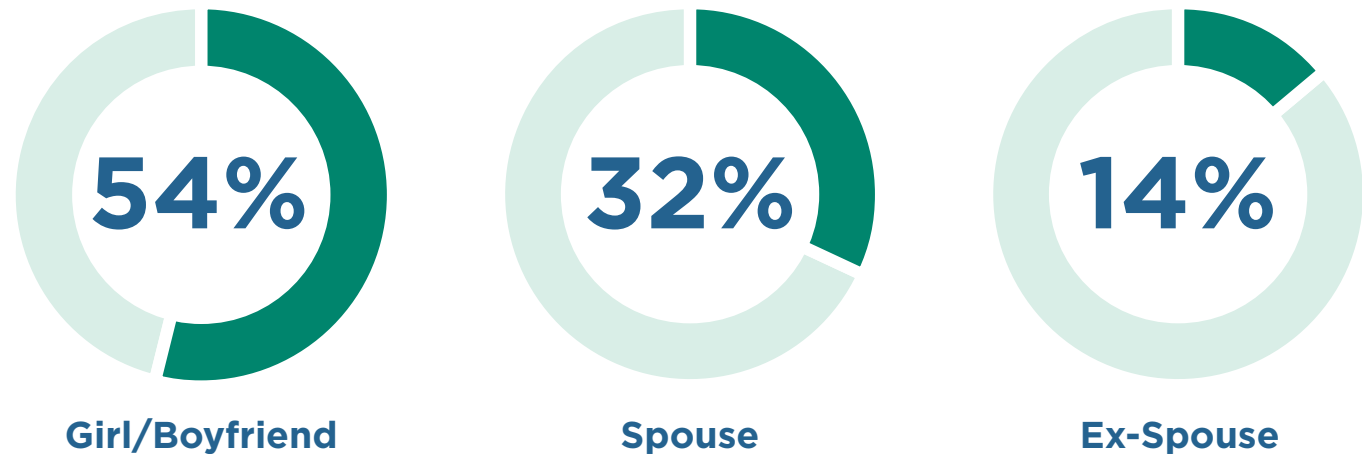


BOYFRIEND LOOPHOLE

The Problem

While federal law has long prohibited convicted domestic abusers from owning a firearm, it only applies to domestic abusers who are married to, living with or have children with the victim. It does not apply to abusers who are in a relationship with the victim but do not live with them. As Americans are getting married later or not getting married at all, this means the loophole is impacting more people. In fact, the majority of domestic violence victims are a girlfriend or boyfriend, while a minority are spouses.

Domestic Violence Victims by Partner



Source: Department of Justice, 2014

The Solution

BSCA closes the boyfriend loophole by simply clarifying that a conviction of domestic violence against a current or recent dating partner will prevent the perpetrator from owning a firearm. Those convicted of a single misdemeanor crime of violence would have their right to purchase and possess a firearm restored five years after the end of their criminal sentence if they abide by the law.

BSCA: FACTS VS. FICTION

FALSE CLAIM: The bill will be a backdoor to impose Universal Background Checks for almost every gun buyer.

Here are the facts:

- BSCA does NOT impose any type of universal background checks. In fact, background checks decreased by 6% in the year following BSCA's implementation.
- BSCA does not give the Biden Administration additional authority to expand background checks. Any attempts by the Biden Administration to expand background checks are well beyond the scope of what is in BSCA and will be held accountable to the letter of the law by Congress and in the courts.

FALSE CLAIM: The bill would deny adults under 21 the ability to purchase firearms.

Here are the facts:

- BSCA does NOT raise the age for Americans to be able to purchase firearms, period.
- BSCA's only change is allowing law enforcement to consider disqualifying juvenile records, including criminal convictions and being involuntarily admitted to a mental health facility — the very same disqualifiers that already apply to adults.
- Once these young adults turn 21 they are no longer subject to the additional law enforcement checks, and would be able to purchase a firearm if they prove to be a law-abiding adult and don't get convicted of additional crimes.

FALSE CLAIM: The bill creates a national red flag law and bribes states to pass their own red flag laws.

This claim is absolutely not true and states are not rushing to pass red flag laws.

Here are the facts:

- BSCA does NOT create a federal red flag law.
- BSCA does NOT incentivize any state to create a red flag law, and states without red flag laws, like North Carolina, must receive equal funding under BSCA.
- BSCA does NOT punish states that do not have a red flag law. In fact, it encourages states to pursue the policies that best fit the needs of their constituents.
- BSCA requires any state that decides to pass a red flag law to enshrine new due process protections for all gun owners. Funding through BSCA is conditioned on preserving due process rights, and will increase constitutional accountability on states that have adopted red flag laws.

FALSE CLAIM: The bill imposes federally mandated waiting periods.

Here are the facts:

- There are NO new mandatory wait times. In fact, NICS' current average processing times for under 21 applicants is approximately 3 days, in line with existing requirements for older adults.
- Under existing law, the FBI can investigate initial background checks flagged for review for up to three days. If the FBI does not act within those three days, the individual can automatically purchase a firearm. This stays the same under BSCA.

FALSE CLAIM: Closing the "boyfriend loophole" will restrict Second Amendment rights.

Here are the facts:

- The loophole that BSCA closes only applies to individuals who are CONVICTED of domestic violence, not simply accused. Unless you have been recently convicted of domestic violence, BSCA will have absolutely no impact on you.
- BSCA automatically restores the gun rights of those convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence crime against a non-spouse five years after completing the terms of their sentence if they commit no further crimes.



SCHOOL SAFETY



School Safety and Student Mental Health Support

No parent should be fearful of sending their child to school every day. Schools need to be a safe environment where learning is always the primary focus.

Unfortunately, we have seen far too many violent tragedies at schools across the nation. BSCA was a bipartisan response to the horrific shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas in 2022, which resulted in the murder of 19 young students and two teachers.

That tragedy showed fundamental shortcomings in both schools and law enforcement. While schools across the nation have taken steps to harden and strengthen safety at high schools, we have too often not seen those same measures being implemented at elementary and middle schools, making them soft targets for deranged criminals.

BSCA takes steps to not only improve school safety, but to also expand mental health services offered to students which can help identify and address issues earlier on in a student's life.

While BSCA makes historic investments to protect and support students, teachers, and schools, we still need to do more, and it will require a continual partnership between federal, state, and local governments and law enforcement to ensure all students can learn in a safe environment.

Tom Tillis

IMPROVING SCHOOL SAFETY

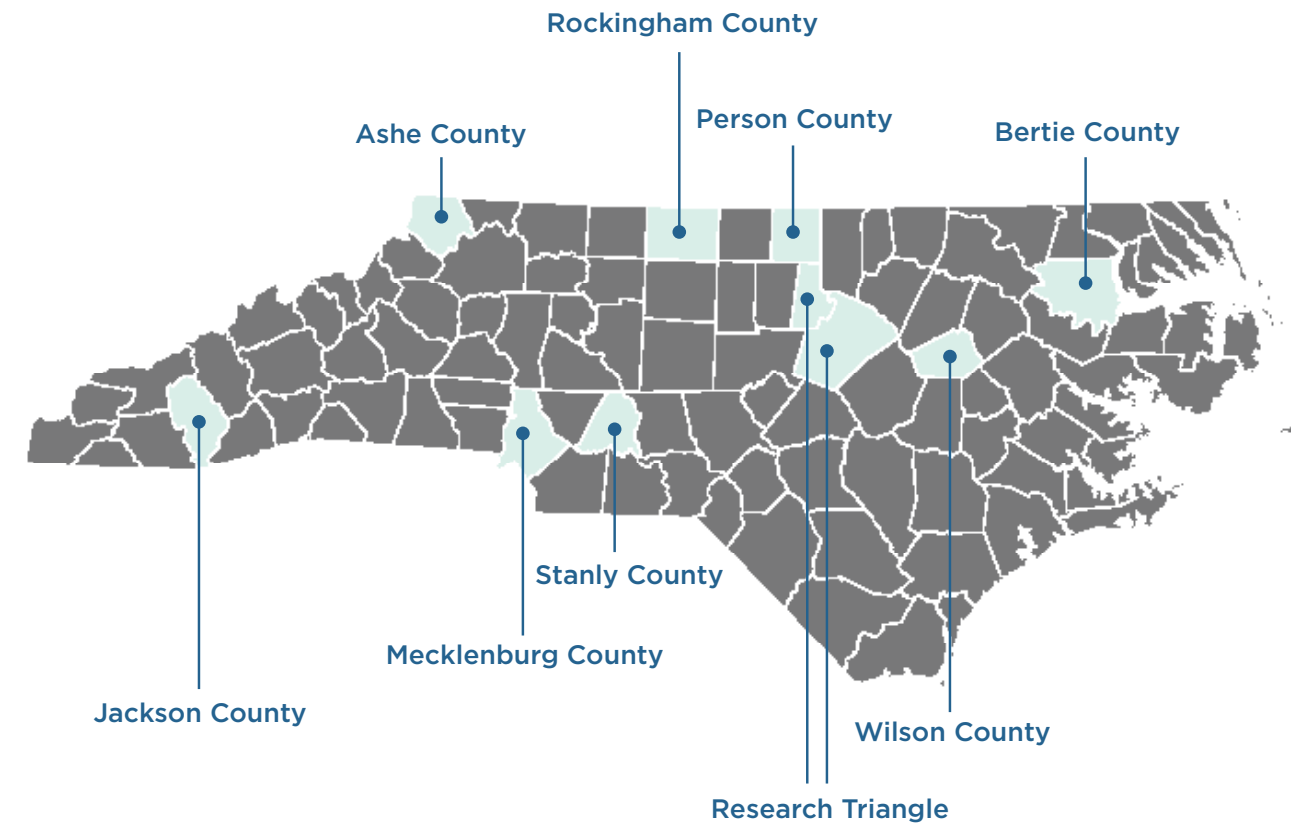
\$300 Million Investment

BSCA provides \$200 million in funding through the STOP School Violence Program under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to institute safety measures in and around schools, support school violence prevention efforts and provide training to school personnel and students, and \$100 million in funding for the School Violence Prevention Program under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office programs to:

- Train local law enforcement to prevent student violence.
- Coordinate with law enforcement.
- Install metal detectors, lighting, and other security deterrent measures.
- New technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency.



School Safety Grants



STOP School Violence Grants (BJA)

- Public Instruction, N.C. Department: **\$1,588,357**
- Ashe County: **\$607,423**
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education: **\$933,662**
- Research Triangle Institute: **\$999,816**

School Violence Prevention Program (COPS)

- Bertie County Board of Education: **\$490,417**
- Jackson County Board of Education: **\$420,008**
- Person County Schools: **\$461,138**
- Rockingham County Schools: **\$495,843**
- Stanly County Schools: **\$333,654**
- Wilson County Schools: **\$411,261**

TRAINING AND DEVELOPING SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND STAFF

\$500 Million Investment

BSCA provides a half billion dollars in funding to the School-Based Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Grant, which will help train and diversify the pipeline of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists.

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and State Educational Agencies (SEAs) are eligible for the grant funding.

This investment includes support for:

1. Training for school-based mental health service providers to increase the number of professionals available as a school resource.
2. Employment to support hiring additional staff to fill vacancies/areas of need for qualified school mental health professionals.
3. Partnership with mental service providers and agencies supporting youth safety and well-being.

There have already been several grants awarded in North Carolina:

- N.C. Department of Public Instruction: **\$776,791**
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: **\$398,483**
- Cumberland County Schools Board of Education: **\$1,017,227**
Partnering with Fayetteville State University, UNC-Pembroke, and RTI International
- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro: **\$880,938**
In partnership with Alamance-Burlington School Systems and Rockingham County Schools

HIRING SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND STAFF

\$500 Million Investment

BSCA provides a half billion dollars through the School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program to increase the number of qualified mental health service providers that provide school-based mental health services to students in school districts with demonstrated need.

Both high-need LEAs and SEAs applying on behalf of LEAs are eligible for the grant funding.

The investment focuses on:

1. Recruitment of credentialed school-based mental health service providers.
2. Employment and retention efforts to hire qualified professionals, including psychologists and social workers.
3. Priority on hiring mental health service personnel hailing from the communities served by these schools.

There have already been several grants awarded in North Carolina:

- Iredell-Statesville Schools: **\$2,018,455**
- Surry County Schools: **\$892,109**
- N.C. Department of Public Instruction: **\$2,373,740**
- Guilford County Schools: **\$2,992,531**



IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR STUDENT LEARNING AND SAFETY

\$1 Billion Investment

BSCA provides \$1 billion in funding to schools to support a variety of activities to improve conditions for student learning, including developing positive school climates through evidence-based practices.

Programs and plans the BSCA investment support:

- Emergency operations plans and emergency drills.
- Safety and violence prevention programs.
- Anti-bullying programs.
- Fair discipline programs with the goal of stopping the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Supporting students with disabilities.
- Supporting the mental and emotional health of students, including those dealing with bullying, family violence/drug use, and more.

BSCA requires SEAs to make Stronger Connections grant awards available on a competitive basis to high-need LEAs, as determined by the SEA.

An LEA could be considered “high need” if:

1. The local schools need additional mental health staff, which may be demonstrated by a high student-to-mental health professional ratio.
2. The local schools have high rates of chronic absenteeism, exclusionary discipline, referrals to the juvenile justice system, bullying/harassment, and community and school violence.
3. Students recently experienced a natural or man-made disaster or a traumatic event.

SUPPORTING OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS

\$50 Million Investment

BSCA provides \$50 million in funding to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which funds extracurricular, after school, and summer programs with a focus of new funding to target programs for older youth.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program has been a proven success.

For students regularly attending Community Learning Centers:



69%
improved their homework completion and class participation



48%
improved their math grades



64%
improved their behavior in class



48%
improved their language arts grades

Did You Know?

Every \$1 invested in after school programs ultimately saves \$3 by improving a student’s school performance and reducing crime and welfare costs.



RAILS TO
Trails
conservancy

DOWNSIDE
WE TRAIL

OFFICE LOCATIONS



Charlotte

10150 Mallard Creek Rd
Suite 508
Charlotte, NC 28262
Phone: (704) 509-9087



Hendersonville

1 Historic Courthouse Square
Suite 112
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone: (828) 693-8750



Greensboro

3200 Northline Ave
Suite 150
Greensboro, NC 27408
Phone: (336) 885-0685



Raleigh

310 New Bern Ave
Suite 122
Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone: (919) 856-4630



Greenville

1694 E. Arlington Blvd
Suite B
Greenville, NC 27858
Phone: (252) 329-0371



Washington, DC

113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6342

THOM TILLIS
U.S. SENATOR *for* NORTH CAROLINA



tillis.senate.gov