

# DAVID N. CICILLINE

U.S. CONGRESS ★ RHODE ISLAND ★ FIRST DISTRICT

## BIPARTISAN ACTIVE SHOOTER ALERT ACT OF 2022 (H.R. 6538)

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*This bipartisan legislation -- led by Congressmen David N. Cicilline (D-RI) and Fred Upton (R-MI) -- would create an active shooter alert system for law enforcement to let communities know to stay away and stay safe in an active shooter event.*

Law enforcement and other commissions have recognized the need for an active shooter alert system, [arguing](#) for “a version of a storm warning or AMBER alert system” for attacks and [noting](#) that “our schools’ greatest vulnerabilities exist because of voids in basic security policies and strategies... such as [an] effective... communications/notification system.”

**The Bipartisan Active Shooter Alert Act of 2022 answers these calls by creating an AMBER Alert-type system allowing law enforcement to alert the public of nearby active shooters.** This may have been useful in multiple situations in recent years.

- In February 2016, an active shooter in Kalamazoo, Michigan killed six people. Kalamazoo DPS issued a warning on its Facebook page, but few saw the post. The shooter picked up new Uber passengers for two more hours after the shooting before his ultimate arrest.
- In August 2019, a shooter in Midland and Odessa, Texas, murdered seven and wounded 25 people across 15 miles, including three police officers. Police had information on the shooter’s description and location, but no way to effectively alert those in the area to take cover.
- In March 2021, a shooter in Atlanta, Georgia targeted three spas, killing eight people over more than an hour, and was at large for 3.5 hours before law enforcement apprehended him.

### **Specifically, the Bipartisan Active Shooter Alert Act of 2022:**

- **Appoints an Active Shooter Alert Coordinator within the Department of Justice.** The Coordinator would offer support and expert-developed best practices to local and state law enforcement to effectively implement active shooter alert systems. These practices and systems are adoptable on a voluntary basis.
- **Creates an Active Shooter Alert Network using the existing AMBER Alert infrastructure.** Some jurisdictions around the country have local active shooter alert systems, but many of these programs have messaging delays and [low enrollment](#). This legislation creates a Network for law enforcement to send active shooter alerts through [IPAWS](#), the national system used for AMBER Alerts, to help fix these problems. Smartphones automatically receive IPAWS alerts, which are sent through a program with few to no delays. IPAWS also has precise geolocating technology, which can send alerts to specific locations down to 0.1 miles. Most law enforcement are familiar with IPAWS and have systems in place to use it; this legislation would simply create protocols and best practices to utilize this existing infrastructure for active shooter situations.