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Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney Michael G. Roehrig announces a response to the copy-cat threats of school violence following the Oxford High School shooting. Nearly 30 lives have been lost to incidents of gunfire on school grounds in 2021. There have been a staggering 21 school shootings since August. The murder of four teens on Tuesday at a high school in Oxford is just one example of the "epidemic" of gun violence across the United States. A 15-year-old sophomore has been charged *as an adult* with two dozen crimes, including murder and terrorism causing death. He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The loss of life – along with the debilitating grief of those left behind, the shock, the fear – should be more than enough to force an end to this unimaginable threat to public safety. Yet, every day we are compelled to endure another chapter in this macabre story. And then there are the copy-cats. People who threaten to murder and maim, to frighten, to disrupt. Even in the face of unbelievable tragedy, these people pursue evil rather than good. Some 80 Michigan schools have closed amid these copy-cat threats following the Oxford shooting. In a sadistic way, maybe they think it's funny. Maybe they see it as a way to get out of school for a day or two. But it's a crime. The crime of intentionally threatening to commit an act of violence with a dangerous weapon against a school (students, staff or school property) is a felony carrying a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Members of the law enforcement community take these threats seriously and will work together to find these people. Monroe County Prosecutor, Michael Roehrig, noted that "the Prosecuting Attorney's Office will prosecute offenders and bring the full weight of the criminal justice system to bear in holding them accountable." Roehrig, added, "Think before you act. Think of the consequences of your actions. If you want to be unique, if you want to be remembered, do something good."

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