

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3968

To authorize the establishment of a comprehensive school-based violence prevention program to assist youth at highest risk for involvement in gun violence in local communities and schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2025

Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CASE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. BELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the establishment of a comprehensive school-based violence prevention program to assist youth at highest risk for involvement in gun violence in local communities and schools, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “School Violence Pre-
5 vention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED VIOLENCE PRE-**
2 **VENTION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The second part G
4 (relating to services provided through religious organiza-
5 tions) of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 290kk et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating such part as part J; and

8 (2) by redesignating sections 581 through 584
9 as sections 596 through 596C, respectively.

10 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Section 581 of the Pub-
11 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh) (relating to chil-
12 dren and violence) is amended to read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 581. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED VIOLENCE**
14 **PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
16 with the Secretary of Education, shall award grants to eli-
17 gible entities to establish or expand a comprehensive
18 school-based violence prevention program to assist youth
19 at highest risk for involvement in gun violence in local
20 communities and schools (including schools funded by the
21 Bureau of Indian Education).

22 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded under subsection
23 (a), shall, as appropriate, be used for—

24 “(1) the implementation of school-based vio-
25 lence prevention programs that—

1 “(A) are primarily focused on providing
2 services to students enrolled in kindergarten
3 through 12th grade or youth younger than 19;
4 and

5 “(B) use strategies that are evidence-
6 based, culturally competent, trauma-informed,
7 and linguistically and developmentally inclusive,
8 and have demonstrated effectiveness at pre-
9 venting or reducing violence among youth at
10 highest risk for involvement in gun violence, in-
11 cluding strategies that—

12 “(i) promote community engagement
13 that supports healthy development, includ-
14 ing emphasizing self-esteem and cultural or
15 ethnic pride;

16 “(ii) promote healing from trauma
17 and other adverse childhood experiences
18 that increase a young person’s risk for in-
19 volvement in gun violence;

20 “(iii) strengthen the interpersonal and
21 emotional skills of youth, such as commu-
22 nication, problem-solving, empathy, and
23 conflict management;

24 “(iv) connect youth to mental health
25 professionals, counselors, mentors, commu-

1 nity leaders, crisis intervention profes-
2 sionals, community violence interrupters,
3 or educators trained in trauma-informed
4 care and activities;

5 “(v) foster community engagement
6 and safe community environments; or

7 “(vi) lessen harms of escalating vio-
8 lence and prevent future risk of violence,
9 including gun violence;

10 “(2) technical assistance to local educational
11 agencies and community-based nonprofit organiza-
12 tions with respect to the development of programs
13 described in paragraph (1);

14 “(3) facilitating community partnerships among
15 youth, families, schools, local businesses, and agen-
16 cies with respect to such programs;

17 “(4) increasing teacher, school leader, and other
18 school personnel access to evidence-based trauma
19 support services, social and emotional learning, and
20 mental health services through professional develop-
21 ment; and

22 “(5) collecting data in accordance with sub-
23 section (g).

1 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under
2 subsection (a), an entity shall be a partnership that in-
3 cludes—

4 “(1) a State educational agency, in coordination
5 with 1 or more local educational agencies located in
6 a municipality or other local government—

7 “(A) that, for not fewer than 2 of the 3
8 years preceding the grant application—

9 “(i) experienced 35 or more homicides
10 per year;

11 “(ii) experienced 20 or more homi-
12 cides per year and had a homicide rate
13 that was not less than double the national
14 average;

15 “(iii) had high rates of violent injury
16 or injury recidivism among youth as deter-
17 mined by the State; or

18 “(iv) had a juvenile arrest rate for
19 violent crime that was not less than double
20 the national average; or

21 “(B) that demonstrates a unique and com-
22 pelling need for additional resources to address
23 youth gun violence; and

24 “(2) at least 1 community-based nonprofit or-
25 ganization that serves the youth or families of the

1 youth of the 1 or more local educational agencies re-
2 ferred to in paragraph (1).

3 “(d) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
4 shall ensure that grants under subsection (a) are distrib-
5 uted equitably among the regions of the United States.

6 “(e) DURATION OF AWARDS.—A grant under sub-
7 section (a) shall be for a period of 5 years, and may be
8 renewed by the Secretary.

9 “(f) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

11 “(A) DEVELOPMENT OF EVALUATION
12 PROCESS.—The Secretary, in coordination with
13 the Secretary of Education, shall develop a
14 process for evaluating activities carried out
15 through a grant under this section. Such proc-
16 ess shall include—

17 “(i) the development of guidelines for
18 the submission of program data by grant-
19 ees;

20 “(ii) the development of measures of
21 outcomes (in accordance with subpara-
22 graph (B)) to be applied by grantees in
23 evaluating programs carried out through a
24 grant under this section; and

1 “(iii) the submission of regular re-
2 ports by grantees concerning the impacts
3 of programs carried out through a grant
4 under this section.

5 “(B) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Sec-
6 retary shall develop measures of outcomes to be
7 applied by grantees under this section—

8 “(i) to evaluate the impacts of pro-
9 grams carried out through a grant under
10 this section, including outcomes related to
11 the students, families, and local edu-
12 cational systems supported under this sec-
13 tion; and

14 “(ii) to disaggregate data on such out-
15 comes by the subgroups of students listed
16 in section 1111(c)(2) of the Elementary
17 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

18 “(C) SUBMISSION OF DATA.—Not later
19 than the end of each of the second and last aca-
20 demic years covered by the period of a grant
21 under this section, the grantee shall submit to
22 the Secretary and the Director of the Institute
23 of Education Sciences a report that—

24 “(i) includes data to evaluate the suc-
25 cess of the program carried out by the

1 grantee based on whether such program is
2 achieving the purposes of the program; and

3 “(ii) utilizes the measures of outcomes
4 developed under subparagraph (B), includ-
5 ing high school graduation rates, employ-
6 ment rates, and rates of enrollment in
7 postsecondary education and trade schools,
8 in a reasonable manner to demonstrate the
9 progress of the program in achieving such
10 purposes.

11 “(D) EVALUATION BY SECRETARY AND
12 THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF EDU-
13 CATION SCIENCES.—Based on the data sub-
14 mitted under subparagraph (C), the Secretary
15 and the Director of the Institute of Education
16 Sciences shall submit to Congress a report at
17 least once every three years concerning the re-
18 sults and impacts of the programs carried out
19 with assistance received under this section, in-
20 cluding recommendations on how to conduct
21 gun violence prevention activities with limited
22 resources following a co-occurring emergency
23 (such as a national public health emergency or
24 a natural disaster).

1 “(2) INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER.—The Sec-
2 retary shall contract with independent researchers,
3 including researchers with expertise in violence pre-
4 vention programs, to evaluate the performance and
5 impacts of selected programs funded through grants
6 under this section. Such evaluations shall be made
7 publicly available on the internet website of the Cen-
8 ters for Disease Control and Prevention.

9 “(g) INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.—The Sec-
10 retary shall disseminate best practices to the public based
11 on the findings resulting from programs funded through
12 grants under this section.

13 “(h) ESEA TERMS DEFINED.—In this section, the
14 terms ‘local educational agency’ and ‘State educational
15 agency’ have the meanings given such terms, respectively,
16 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
17 cation Act of 1965.

18 “(i) FUNDING.—

19 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 To carry out this section, there is authorized to be
21 appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2025 through 2031.

23 “(2) EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.—

24 “(A) BY GRANTEES.—To carry out evalua-
25 tion activities under subsection (f)(1), an eligi-

1 ble entity receiving a grant under this section
2 shall use not more than 20 percent of the total
3 amount received through the grant.

4 “(B) INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER.—To
5 carry out subsection (f)(2) for a fiscal year, the
6 Secretary may reserve not more than 5 percent
7 of the funds made available to carry out this
8 section for such fiscal year.”.

9 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Part G of title V of
10 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh et seq.),
11 as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by strik-
12 ing the part designation and heading and inserting the
13 following:

14 **“PART G—COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED**
15 **VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM”.**

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