

JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT REAUTHORIZATION AND THE BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ACT OF 2012

JULY 9, 2012.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SMITH of Texas, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6019]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6019) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the use of Juvenile Accountability Block Grants for programs to prevent and address occurrences of bullying and to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The Amendment

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS; REAUTHORIZATION OF JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANTS.**(a) BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (13) of section 1801(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796ee(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(13) establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety, which programs may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, and gang prevention programs, as well as intervention programs regarding bullying;”.

(2) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that the use of best practices is encouraged for all activities for which grants under part R of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 may be used.

(b) **REAUTHORIZATION OF JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANTS.**—Section 1810(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3796ee–10(a)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017”.

Purpose and Summary

H.R. 6019 reauthorizes the Justice Department’s Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program at \$40 million a year for 5 years. The bill also amends the existing JABG school safety purpose area to ensure that grant funds may be spent on bullying intervention programs, and provides a Sense of Congress that best practices should be used to implement all JABG purposes.

Background and Need for the Legislation

The JABG program provides grants to states, tribes, and units of local government to strengthen their juvenile justice systems and foster accountability within their juvenile populations by holding juveniles responsible for their actions. Each state is automatically distributed 0.5% of the total appropriated money under the program, and the remaining amount is distributed based on the states’ rate of juveniles under the age of 18. The JABG program was originally codified in 2002, and was most recently reauthorized in 2005 at \$350 million a year for fiscal years 2006 through 2009. *The program was appropriated \$46 million in fiscal year 2011, and \$30 million in fiscal year 2012.*

The JABG program currently has 17 authorized purpose areas, including: implementing graduated sanctions for juveniles; building or operating juvenile correction or detention facilities; supporting prosecutorial initiatives aimed at curbing drug use, violence, and gangs; accountability-based school safety initiatives; and establishing juvenile drug courts and gun courts.

In 2005, a purpose area was added to the program to address school safety, including bullying and cyberbullying prevention. Although bullying among youth is not a new problem, it remains a serious one. A 2009 study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 43.9% of the participating middle school students and 30.5% of the participating high school students had been affected by bullying.¹ Bullying is also not always harmless juvenile fun. According to this same study, victims of bullying

¹ See *Bullying Among Middle School and High School Students—Massachusetts, 2009*, http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6015a1.htm?s_cid=mm6015a1_w.

are more than three times more likely to report having seriously considered committing suicide or intentionally harming themselves, and they are much more likely to report drug and alcohol use.

H.R. 6019 reauthorizes the JABG program at \$40 million a year for 5 years, expands the existing anti-bullying purpose area to include intervention in addition to prevention, and encourages the use of best practices for bullying prevention and intervention and all of the other purpose areas within the JABG program.

Hearings

The Committee on the Judiciary held no hearings on H.R. 6019.

Committee Consideration

On June 28, 2012, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill H.R. 6019 favorably reported with an amendment, by voice vote, a quorum being present.

Committee Votes

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that there were no recorded votes during the Committee's consideration of H.R. 6019. The Committee approved by voice vote two amendments offered by Mr. Scott.

Committee Oversight Findings

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate

In compliance with clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the bill, H.R. 6019, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2012.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH, CHAIRMAN,
*Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 6019, the "Juvenile Ac-

countability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2012.”

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz, who can be reached at 226–2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
DIRECTOR.

Enclosure

cc: Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member

H.R. 6019—Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2012.

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary
on June 28, 2012.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6019 would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million annually over the 2013–2017 period for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make grants to State and local governments for programs to strengthen the juvenile justice system, including programs to combat bullying in schools.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6019 would cost \$121 million over the 2013–2017 period. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 6019 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 6019 is shown in the following table. CBO assumes that the authorized amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical rate of spending for similar activities. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013– 2017
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	40	40	40	40	40	200
Estimated Outlays	5	16	26	34	40	121

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 6019 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local, and tribal governments would benefit from grants authorized by the bill. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of Federal assistance.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Mark Grabowicz
Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell
Impact on the Private Sector: Vi Nguyen

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis

Performance Goals and Objectives

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 6019, reauthorizes the JABG program, ensures that grant funds may be spent on bullying intervention programs, and provides a Sense of Congress that best practices should be used to implement the purposes of the JABG program.

Advisory on Earmarks

In accordance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 6019 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of Rule XXI.

Section-by-Section Analysis

The following discussion describes the bill as reported by the Committee.

Sec. 1. Short title.

Section 1 sets forth the short title of the bill as Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2012.

Sec. 2. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Programs; Reauthorization of Juvenile Accountability Block Grants.

Section 2 amends the existing JABG school safety purpose area (42 U.S.C. § 3796ee(b)) to expressly state that grant funds may be used for bullying intervention programs, and provides a Sense of Congress that best practices should be used to combat bullying. Section 2 also reauthorizes the JABG program at \$40 million for 5 years.

Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT
OF 1968**

* * * * *

TITLE I—JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

* * * * *

**PART R—JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK
GRANTS**

SEC. 1801. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) * * *

(b) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Amounts paid to a State or a unit of local government under this part shall be used by the State or unit of local government for the purpose of strengthening the juvenile justice system, which includes—

(1) * * *

* * * * *

[(13) establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety, which programs may include research-based bullying, cyberbullying, and gang prevention programs;]

(13) establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety, which programs may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, and gang prevention programs, as well as intervention programs regarding bullying;

* * * * *

SEC. 1810. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part, \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2009 and \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017.

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