

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1898

To provide for school safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 1999

Ms. STABENOW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for school safety, 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 Safety En-
5 hancement Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) While our Nation’s schools are still rel-
9 atively safe, it is imperative that schools be provided

1 with adequate resources to prevent incidents of vio-
2 lence.

3 (2) Approximately 10 percent of all public
4 schools reported at least 1 serious violent crime to
5 a law enforcement agency over the course of the
6 1996–1997 school year.

7 (3) In 1996, approximately 225,000 students
8 between the ages of 12 and 18 were victims of
9 nonfatal violent crime in schools in the United
10 States.

11 (4) From 1992 through 1994, 76 students and
12 29 non-students were victims of murders or suicides
13 that were committed in schools in the United States.

14 (5) The school violence incidents in several
15 States across the Nation in 1998 and 1999 caused
16 enormous damage to schools, families, and whole
17 communities.

18 (6) Because of escalating school violence, the
19 children of the United States are increasingly afraid
20 that they will be attacked or harmed at school.

21 (7) A report issued by the Department of Edu-
22 cation in August, 1998, entitled “Early Warning,
23 Early Response” concluded that the reduction and
24 prevention of school violence is best achieved
25 through safety plans which involve the entire com-

1 munity, policies which emphasize both prevention
2 and intervention, training school personnel, parents,
3 students, and community members to recognize the
4 early warning signs of potential violent behavior and
5 to share their concerns or observations with trained
6 personnel, establishing procedures which allow rapid
7 response and intervention when early warning signs
8 of violent behavior are identified, and providing ade-
9 quate support and access to services for troubled
10 students.

11 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOOL AND YOUTH SAFE-**
12 **TY.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Education
14 and the Attorney General shall jointly establish a National
15 Center for School and Youth Safety (in this section re-
16 ferred to as the “Center”). The Secretary of Education
17 and the Attorney General may establish the Center at an
18 existing facility, if the facility has a history of performing
19 two or more of the duties described in subsection (b). The
20 Secretary of Education and the Attorney General shall
21 jointly appoint a Director of the Center to oversee the op-
22 eration of the Center.

23 (b) DUTIES.—The Center shall carry out emergency
24 response, anonymous student hotline, consultation, and in-

1 formation and outreach activities with respect to elemen-
2 tary and secondary school safety, including the following:

3 (1) EMERGENCY RESPONSE.—The staff of the
4 Center, and such temporary contract employees as
5 the Director of the Center shall determine necessary,
6 shall offer emergency assistance to local commu-
7 nities to respond to school safety crises. Such assist-
8 ance shall include counseling for victims and the
9 community, assistance to law enforcement to address
10 short-term security concerns, and advice on how to
11 enhance school safety, prevent future incidents, and
12 respond to future incidents.

13 (2) ANONYMOUS STUDENT HOTLINE.—The
14 Center shall establish a toll-free telephone number
15 for students to report criminal activity, threats of
16 criminal activity, and other high-risk behaviors such
17 as substance abuse, gang or cult affiliation, depres-
18 sion, or other warning signs of potentially violent be-
19 havior. The Center shall relay the reports, without
20 attribution, to local law enforcement or appropriate
21 school hotlines. The Director of the Center shall
22 work with the Attorney General to establish guide-
23 lines for Center staff to work with law enforcement
24 around the Nation to relay information reported
25 through the hotline.

1 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Center shall estab-
2 lish a toll-free number for the public to contact staff
3 of the Center for consultation regarding school safe-
4 ty. The Director of the Center shall hire administra-
5 tive staff and individuals with expertise in enhancing
6 school safety, including individuals with backgrounds
7 in counseling and psychology, education, law en-
8 forcement and criminal justice, and community de-
9 velopment to assist in the consultation.

10 (4) INFORMATION AND OUTREACH.—The Cen-
11 ter shall compile information about the best prac-
12 tices in school violence prevention, intervention, and
13 crisis management, and shall serve as a clearing-
14 house for model school safety program information.
15 The staff of the Center shall work to ensure local
16 governments, school officials, parents, students, and
17 law enforcement officials and agencies are aware of
18 the resources, grants, and expertise available to en-
19 hance school safety and prevent school crime. The
20 staff of the Center shall give special attention to
21 providing outreach to rural and impoverished com-
22 munities.

23 **SEC. 4. SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS.**

24 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Edu-
25 cation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and

1 the Attorney General may award grants, on a competitive
2 basis, to help communities develop community-wide safety
3 programs involving students, parents, educators, guidance
4 counselors, psychologists, law enforcement officials or
5 agencies, civic leaders, and other organizations serving the
6 community.

7 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Funds provided to
8 carry out this Act may be used for activities that may in-
9 clude efforts to—

- 10 (1) increase early intervention strategies;
- 11 (2) expand parental involvement;
- 12 (3) increase students' awareness of warning
13 signs of violent behavior;
- 14 (4) promote students' responsibility to report
15 the warning signs to appropriate persons;
- 16 (5) promote conflict resolution and peer medi-
17 ation programs;
- 18 (6) increase the number of after-school pro-
19 grams;
- 20 (7) expand the use of safety-related equipment
21 and technology; and
- 22 (8) expand students' access to mental health
23 services.

1 **SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTEC-**
2 **TION ACT OF 1993.**

3 Section 5(10) of the National Child Protection Act
4 of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 5119c(10)) is amended to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(10) the term ‘qualified entity’ means—

7 “(A) a business or organization, whether
8 public, private, for-profit, not-for-profit, or vol-
9 untary, that provides care or care placement
10 services, including a business or organization
11 that licenses or certifies others to provide care
12 or care placement services; or

13 “(B) an elementary or secondary school.”.

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