

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 329

To assist the Neighborhood Watch program to empower communities and citizens to enhance awareness about threats from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and encourage local communities to better prepare to respond to terrorist attacks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2003

Mr. EDWARDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To assist the Neighborhood Watch program to empower communities and citizens to enhance awareness about threats from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and encourage local communities to better prepare to respond to terrorist attacks.

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 “Neighborhood Security
5 Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:4 (1) National Neighborhood Watch was created
5 by the National Sheriffs Association in 1972
6 through funding provided by the Law Enforcement
7 Assistance Administration.8 (2) Neighborhood Watch is a voluntary pro-
9 gram that supports local efforts to safeguard com-
10 munities.11 (3) A national registry of Neighborhood Watch
12 units does not exist.13 (4) On January 30, 2002, President Bush an-
14 nounced the creation of Citizen Corps. Beginning in
15 September 2002, in cooperation of the National
16 Sheriffs Association, Citizen Corps has aimed to en-
17 courage citizens to form Neighborhood Watch
18 groups in their local communities to bolster home-
19 land security.20 (5) Citizens in local communities should be en-
21 couraged and empowered to engage in homeland se-
22 curity activities to reduce the threat to homeland se-
23 curity from terrorism.24 (6) The Nation's homeland security system
25 should do as much as possible to—

1 (A) encourage the creation of, and participation
2 in, high-quality Neighborhood Watch
3 programs in local communities;

4 (B) disseminate information about home-
5 land security efforts; and

(C) educate citizens on how to prevent, and respond to, possible terrorist attacks.

8 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
9 lows:

15 (2) To create 50,000 new Neighborhood Watch-
16 es by the end of 2007.

19 SEC. 3. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GRANTS.

20 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

4 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded pursuant to
5 subsection (a) shall be used to—

6 (1) complete a survey of Neighborhood Watches
7 that identifies such programs by ZIP code;

14 (A) educating community members with
15 respect to the prevention of terrorism and
16 crime;

17 (B) preventing or assisting with the pre-
18 vention of terrorism and crime;

19 (C) appropriately responding to terrorism
20 and crime; and

21 (D) achieving broad community involvement
22 in activities under subparagraphs (A)
23 through (C);

4 (A) establish a new Neighborhood Watch;

5 or

6 (B) improve an existing Neighborhood
7 Watch; and

10 (A) the benefits of effective Neighborhood
11 Watches;

12 (B) the means to establish new Neighborhood
13 hood Watches; and

14 (C) the means to improve existing Neigh-
15 borhood Watches.

16 (6) In response to an appropriate request to
17 create a Neighborhood Watch, the grantee shall pro-
18 vide a Neighborhood Watch start-up kit which in-
19 cludes material useful for a Neighborhood Watch
20 that is identified by the grantee.

21 (c) APPLICATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring
23 a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
24 tion to the Attorney General at such time, in such

1 manner, and accompanied by such information as
2 the Attorney General may reasonably require.

3 (2) CRITERIA.—Applicants for grants under
4 this section shall be selected based on—

5 (A) the applicant's ability to carry out the
6 activities described in subsection (b);

7 (B) the applicant's experience coordinating
8 Neighborhood Watches;

9 (C) adequate consultation with state and
10 local law enforcement; and

11 (D) and other criteria, as determined by
12 the Attorney General.

13 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000
15 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums as are necessary for
16 fiscal years 2005 through 2008 to carry out this Act and
17 the amendments made by this Act.

