

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3921

To provide grants for public information campaigns to educate racial and ethnic minority communities and immigrant communities about domestic violence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. CAPPS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide grants for public information campaigns to educate racial and ethnic minority communities and immigrant communities about domestic violence.

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 “Domestic Violence Pre-
5 vention, Education, and Awareness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Nearly one-third of American women report
2 being physically or sexually abused by a husband or
3 boyfriend at some point in their lives.

4 (2) Family violence costs the nation between
5 \$5,000,000,000 and \$10,000,000,000 each year in
6 medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters
7 and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-
8 productivity.

9 (3) The United States is becoming increasingly
10 multicultural, and racial and ethnic minorities are
11 expected to constitute approximately 50 percent of
12 the United States population by 2050.

13 (4) Two-thirds of female immigrants to the
14 United States originate from Asia, Latin America,
15 the Caribbean, and the Middle East, and they mi-
16 grate here to seek economic security, reunify their
17 families, or escape prosecution.

18 (5) Racial and ethnic minority women and im-
19 migrant women face unique challenges to reporting
20 and getting help for domestic violence.

21 (6) Structural inequalities experienced by racial
22 and ethnic minority communities and immigrant
23 communities, including poverty and discrimination,
24 may contribute to higher rates of violence.

1 (7) Problems of domestic violence are exacer-
2 bated for immigrants when spouses control the im-
3 migration status of their family members, and abus-
4 ers use threats of refusal to file immigration papers
5 and threats to deport spouses and children as power-
6 ful tools to prevent battered immigrant women from
7 seeking help, trapping battered immigrant women in
8 violent homes because of fear of deportation.

9 (8) Many racial and ethnic minority women and
10 immigrant women face cultural barriers to reporting
11 abuse or seeking help for domestic violence, includ-
12 ing but not limited to strong religious beliefs that
13 stress the importance of keeping family intact, fear
14 of dishonor, or a belief that negative events occur re-
15 gardless of attempts to prevent them.

16 (9) Many racial and ethnic minority women and
17 immigrant women also face institutional barriers to
18 reporting abuse or seeking help for domestic vio-
19 lence, including but not limited to restrictions on
20 public assistance, limited access to immigration re-
21 lief, lack of translators or bilingual professionals, lit-
22 tle educational material in the woman's native lan-
23 guage, treatment programs that do not take into ac-
24 count ethnic and cultural differences, prohibitive fee

1 structures, and inflexible or inconvenient hours of
2 operation.

3 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS TO**
4 **EDUCATE RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY**
5 **COMMUNITIES AND IMMIGRANT COMMU-**
6 **NITIES ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available to
8 carry out this section, the Attorney General, acting
9 through the Violence Against Women Office, shall make
10 grants to public or private nonprofit entities, States, and
11 Indian tribes and tribal organizations to carry out public
12 information campaigns for the purpose of educating racial
13 and ethnic minority communities and immigrant commu-
14 nities about domestic violence, including the effects of do-
15 mestic violence, methods of preventing or reducing domes-
16 tic violence, and services available to victims of domestic
17 violence.

18 (b) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grant amounts
19 under this section may be used only to carry out public
20 information campaigns for the purpose specified in sub-
21 section (a) and to provide staffing appropriate to carrying
22 out the campaigns.

23 (c) ELEMENTS OF CAMPAIGNS.—Each public infor-
24 mation campaign carried out under this section shall con-
25 sist of one or more of the following elements:

1 (1) Public service announcements.

2 (2) Paid educational messages for print media.

3 (3) Public transit advertising.

4 (4) Electronic broadcast media.

5 (5) Any other mode of conveying information
6 that the Attorney General determines to be appro-
7 priate.

8 (d) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT.—The Attorney
9 General may award a grant under this section to an appli-
10 cant only if the Attorney General determines that—

11 (1) the campaign will be carried out in con-
12 sultation with local domestic violence advocates or
13 State domestic violence coalitions;

14 (2) the campaign is designed to be conducted in
15 a culturally sensitive manner using one or more cul-
16 turally appropriate languages;

17 (3) the applicant has an adequate plan to test-
18 market the campaign with a relevant community or
19 group in the relevant geographic area, and will carry
20 out that plan; and

21 (4) the applicant will use effectiveness criteria
22 in carrying out the campaign and an evaluation com-
23 ponent to measure the effectiveness of the campaign.

1 (e) AWARD CRITERIA.—In awarding grants under
2 this section, the Attorney General shall consider the fol-
3 lowing criteria:

4 (1) Whether the applicant has, or will be
5 partnering with an entity that has, a record of high
6 quality campaigns of a comparable type.

7 (2) Whether the applicant has, or will be
8 partnering with an entity that has, a record of high
9 quality campaigns that educate the communities and
10 groups at greatest risk of domestic violence.

11 (f) APPLICATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
13 grant under this section, a State or entity must sub-
14 mit to the Attorney General an application that
15 meets the requirements of paragraph (2).

16 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—An application submitted
17 under this subsection shall be in such form, and sub-
18 mitted in such manner, as the Attorney General may
19 prescribe, and shall include the following matters:

20 (A) A complete description of applicant's
21 plan for the proposed public information cam-
22 paign.

23 (B) An identification of the specific com-
24 munities and groups to be educated by the cam-
25 paign, and a description of how the campaign

1 will educate the communities and groups at
2 greatest risk of domestic violence.

3 (C) The plans of the applicant with respect
4 to working with organizations that have exper-
5 tise in developing culturally appropriate infor-
6 mational messages.

7 (D) A description of the geographic dis-
8 tribution of the campaign.

9 (E) An identification of the media organi-
10 zations and other groups through which the
11 campaign will be carried out and any memo-
12 randum of understanding or other agreement
13 under which the campaign will be carried out.

14 (F) A description of the nature, amount,
15 distribution, and timing of informational mes-
16 sages to be used in the campaign.

17 (G) Such information and assurances as
18 the Attorney General may require to determine
19 whether the requirements specified in sub-
20 section (d) will be satisfied, and whether the
21 criteria specified in subsection (e) apply.

22 (H) Such other information and assur-
23 ances as the Attorney General may require.

24 (g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
25 term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Com-

1 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American
2 Samoa, Guam, and any other territory or possession of
3 the United States.

4 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
6 necessary to carry out this Act.

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