

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 144

To provide Federal coordination and assistance in preventing gang violence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 4, 2007

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide Federal coordination and assistance in preventing
gang 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 “Mynisha’s Law”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds—

7 (1) with an estimated 24,500 gangs operating
8 within the United States, gang violence and drug
9 trafficking remain serious problems throughout the
10 country, causing injury and death to innocent vic-
11 tims, often children;

1 (2) on November 13, 2005, a gang-related dis-
2 pute broke out in San Bernardino, California, and
3 gunfire sprayed an apartment building, killing 11-
4 year old Mynisha Crenshaw and seriously wounding
5 her 14-year old sister as they ate Sunday dinner
6 with their family;

7 (3) this tragic shooting symbolizes the struggle
8 that so many communities across the United States,
9 like San Bernardino, face in combating gang vio-
10 lence, and serves as a reminder of the nationwide
11 problem of protecting children from senseless vio-
12 lence;

13 (4) according to the National Drug Threat As-
14 sessment, criminal street gangs are responsible for
15 the distribution of much of the cocaine, meth-
16 amphetamine, heroin, and other illegal drugs
17 throughout the United States;

18 (5) the Federal Government has made an in-
19 creased commitment to the suppression of gang vio-
20 lence through enhanced law enforcement and crimi-
21 nal penalties; and

22 (6) more Federal resources and coordination
23 are needed to reduce gang violence through proven
24 and proactive prevention and intervention programs

1 that focus on keeping at-risk youth in school and out
2 of the criminal justice system.

3 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION AS A COMPREHENSIVE GANG PRE-**
4 **VENTION AND RELIEF AREA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—A unit of local government, city,
6 county, tribal government, or a group of counties (whether
7 located in 1 or more States) may submit an application
8 to the Attorney General for designation as a Comprehen-
9 sive Gang Prevention and Relief Area.

10 (b) CRITERIA.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
12 establish criteria for reviewing applications sub-
13 mitted under subsection (a).

14 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing criteria
15 under subsection (a) and evaluating an application
16 for designation as a Comprehensive Gang Prevention
17 and Relief Area, the Attorney General shall con-
18 sider—

19 (A) the current and predicted levels of
20 gang crime activity in the area;

21 (B) the extent to which violent crime in
22 the area appears to be related to criminal gang
23 activity;

24 (C) the extent to which the area is already
25 engaged in local or regional collaboration re-

1 garding, and coordination of, gang prevention
2 activities; and

3 (D) such other criteria as the Attorney
4 General determines to be appropriate.

5 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to coordinate Federal as-
7 sistance to Comprehensive Gang Prevention and Relief
8 Areas, the Attorney General shall establish an Interagency
9 Gang Prevention Task Force (in this Act referred to as
10 the “Task Force”), consisting of a representative from—

11 (1) the Department of Justice;

12 (2) the Department of Education;

13 (3) the Department of Labor;

14 (4) the Department of Health and Human
15 Services; and

16 (5) the Department of Housing and Urban De-
17 velopment.

18 (b) COORDINATION.—For each Comprehensive Gang
19 Prevention and Relief Area designated by the Attorney
20 General under section 3, the Task Force shall—

21 (1) coordinate the activities of the Federal Gov-
22 ernment to create a comprehensive gang prevention
23 response, focusing on early childhood intervention,
24 at-risk youth intervention, literacy, employment,

1 community policing, and comprehensive community-
2 based programs such as Operation Cease Fire; and

3 (2) coordinate its efforts with local and regional
4 gang prevention efforts.

5 (c) PROGRAMS.—The Task Force shall prioritize the
6 needs of Comprehensive Gang Prevention and Relief Areas
7 for funding under—

8 (1) the Child Care and Development Block
9 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.);

10 (2) the Even Start programs under subpart 3
11 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.);

13 (3) the Healthy Start Initiative under section
14 330H of the Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C.
15 254c–8);

16 (4) the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et
17 seq.);

18 (5) the 21st Century Community Learning Cen-
19 ters program under part B of title IV of the Ele-
20 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
21 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.);

22 (6) the Job Corps program under subtitle C of
23 title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
24 U.S.C. 2881 et seq.);

1 (7) the community development block grant
2 program under title I of the Housing and Commu-
3 nity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et
4 seq.);

5 (8) the Gang Resistance Education and Train-
6 ing projects under subtitle X of title III of the Vio-
7 lent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of
8 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13921);

9 (9) any program administered by the Office of
10 Community Oriented Policing Services;

11 (10) the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
12 program under part R of title I of the Omnibus
13 Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
14 U.S.C. 3796ee et seq.);

15 (11) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice As-
16 sistance Grant Program under subpart 1 of part E
17 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
18 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.); and

19 (12) any other program that the Task Force
20 determines to be appropriate.

21 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1
23 of each year, the Task Force shall submit to Con-
24 gress and the Attorney General a report on the
25 funding needs and programmatic outcomes for each

1 area designated as a Comprehensive Gang Preven-
2 tion and Relief Area.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph
4 (1) shall include—

5 (A) an evidence-based analysis of the best
6 practices and outcomes among the areas des-
7 igned as Comprehensive Gang Prevention and
8 Relief Areas; and

9 (B) an analysis of the adequacy of Federal
10 funding to meet the needs of each area des-
11 igned as a Comprehensive Gang Prevention
12 and Relief Area and, if the Task Force identi-
13 fies any programmatic shortfalls in addressing
14 gang prevention, a request for new funding or
15 reprogramming of existing funds to meet such
16 shortfalls.

17 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
19 as are necessary to meet any needs identified by the Task
20 Force or in any report submitted under section 4(d)(1).

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