

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2955

To authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its Community Safety Initiative.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2008

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its Community Safety Initiative.

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 “Community Safety Ini-
5 tiative Act of 2008.”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Local Initiatives Support Corporation
9 (in this section referred to as the “LISC”) is a na-
10 tional community development support organization

1 which provides capital, technical expertise, training,
2 and information to help community-based organiza-
3 tions transform distressed neighborhoods into
4 healthy and sustainable places to live, do business,
5 work, and raise families. Since 1994, LISC's Com-
6 munity Safety Initiative has promoted partnerships
7 between community developers and law enforcement
8 agencies in low-income communities to reduce crime,
9 encourage economic revitalization, and respond to
10 the challenges faced by people returning home upon
11 release from jail or prison.

12 (2) Community Safety Initiative activities spe-
13 cifically accomplish the following:

14 (A) Address crime and disorder, including
15 drug and gang activity involving youth.

16 (B) Spur economic investment.

17 (C) Build trust between communities and
18 police.

19 (D) Respond to prisoner reentry challenges
20 related to housing, employment, social services,
21 and systems coordination.

22 (E) Foster national knowledge-sharing be-
23 tween law enforcement agencies and community
24 organizations about best-practice crime preven-
25 tion strategies.

1 (3) The Community Safety Initiative improves
2 safety and quality of life in more than 20 low-income
3 communities across the country each year, resulting
4 in measurable reductions in crime, better commu-
5 nity-police relations, quality affordable housing in
6 place of problem properties, viable businesses in pre-
7 viously blighted commercial corridors, effective pris-
8 oner reentry programs, and more strategic and effi-
9 cient use of public- and private-sector resources.

10 (4) The Community Safety Initiative program
11 has effectively utilized Federal funds since fiscal
12 year 1999.

13 (5) The Community Safety Initiative has a
14 long-standing partnership with the United States
15 Department of Justice Community Capacity Devel-
16 opment Office and has been endorsed by police
17 chiefs and community development leaders across
18 the country.

19 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM FOR EXPANDING THE COMMU-**
20 **NITY SAFETY INITIATIVE.**

21 In each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014, the Assist-
22 ant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs
23 of the Department of Justice may make grants to the
24 Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its
25 Community Safety Initiative.

1 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Local Initiatives Support
3 Corporation shall, in each of fiscal years 2009 through
4 2014, submit a report to the Assistant Attorney General.

5 (b) REQUIRED CONTENT.—Each report required to
6 be submitted under subsection (a) shall include a detailed
7 statement—

8 (1) regarding the progress made by the Com-
9 munity Safety Initiative in using Federal funds to
10 reduce crime, encourage economic revitalization, im-
11 prove community-police relations, respond to the
12 challenges faced by people returning home upon re-
13 lease from jail or prison, and promoting community
14 safety knowledge-sharing in low-income and minority
15 communities; and

16 (2) of the activities for which the appropriated
17 funds were spent by the Community Safety Initia-
18 tive.

19 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this Act \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through
22 2014.

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