

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 789

To reduce and prevent teen dating violence, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To reduce and prevent teen dating violence, 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 “Teen Dating Violence  
5       Prevention Act of 2009”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7       The purposes of this Act are to establish Federal  
8       grant programs that prevent and reduce verbal, mental,  
9       emotional, physical, and sexual abuse in youth dating rela-  
10      tionships and to improve coordination, collaboration, and  
11      cross-training among Federal, State, and local agencies

1 and nonprofit entities that serve or interact with offenders  
2 and victims of youth dating violence.

3 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Violence is cyclical; violent juvenile  
6 delinquents are four times more likely than other  
7 youths to come from homes in which their fathers  
8 beat their mothers.

9 (2) Technological advancements can enhance  
10 stalking, verbal, emotional, and social abuse while  
11 avoiding parental and adult intervention in abusive  
12 teen dating relationships.

13 (3) Girls between the ages of 16 and 24 are  
14 most likely to experience domestic and dating vio-  
15 lence.

16 (4) Teen dating violence is prevalent regardless  
17 of race, gender, or socio-economic status.

18 (5) More than half of all rape victims are as-  
19 saulted between the ages of 12 and 24.

20 (6) Approximately, 1 in 3 teens reports some  
21 kind of abuse in a romantic relationship, including  
22 emotional and verbal abuse.

23 (7) Nearly 50 percent of all adult sex offenders  
24 report committing their first offense prior to age 18.

1           (8) Abusive dating partners isolate teens from  
2           their families and tend to intentionally create family  
3           discord.

4           (9) Teens involved in abusive relationships are  
5           also more likely to face legal and drug problems,  
6           pregnancy, and other issues.

7           (10) Most parents are unaware of teen dating  
8           violence and have not discussed teen dating violence  
9           with their children.

10 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEEN DATING VIOLENCE**  
11 **PROGRAM.**

12           (a) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may award  
13 grants to eligible grant entities for the purposes of—

14           (1) designing and implementing programs and  
15 services targeting runaway and homeless youth,  
16 youth in the foster care system, or youth in the juve-  
17 nile justice system who are victims of domestic or  
18 dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

19           (2) designing and implementing violence pre-  
20 vention programs to provide education, awareness,  
21 and counseling to deter abusive behaviors and traits  
22 in youth dating relationships;

23           (3) assessing and analyzing available services  
24 for youth victims of dating violence, determining  
25 barriers to such services, and developing community-

1 based, collaborative strategies to address such vio-  
2 lence; and

3 (4) providing preventative, rehabilitative, and  
4 other counseling services to youth victims and youth  
5 offenders of domestic violence, dating violence, sex-  
6 ual assault, or stalking.

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each recipient of a grant  
8 under this Act—

9 (1) shall use funds provided by such grant to  
10 ensure that program services developed, modified,  
11 and provided to youth victims and youth offenders  
12 of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault,  
13 or stalking are developed, modified, and provided  
14 with an understanding of and sensitivity to the lin-  
15 guistic, cultural, social, racial, geographic, and eco-  
16 nomic backgrounds of such youth;

17 (2) shall ensure that victim services organiza-  
18 tions, schools, and families impacted by youth dating  
19 violence are consulted in the development of the pro-  
20 gram and activities to be carried out with such  
21 grant, and that such organizations, schools, and  
22 families have a significant role in evaluating the re-  
23 sults of the program;

24 (3) shall develop programs that exhibit collabo-  
25 rative activities and training models to provide ap-

1       appropriate resources, protection, and support to  
2       youth, and to their families, as needed;

3           (4) may include mental health services for  
4       youth who have experienced domestic violence, dat-  
5       ing violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

6           (5) may include legal assistance and counseling  
7       for youth victims of domestic violence, dating vio-  
8       lence, sexual assault, or stalking; and

9           (6) shall not use more than 30 percent of the  
10      funds provided by such grant to provide childcare,  
11      transportation, educational support, respite care,  
12      and other indirect support services (excluding the  
13      services described in paragraphs (4) and (5)) to  
14      youth victims and youth offenders of domestic vio-  
15      lence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

16      (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act,  
17      the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible grant  
18      entities that have submitted applications in partnership  
19      with other community organizations and service providers  
20      that work primarily with youth, especially teens, and eligi-  
21      ble grant entities that have demonstrated a commitment  
22      to coalition building and cooperative problem solving in  
23      dealing with problems of dating violence, domestic vio-  
24      lence, sexual assault, and stalking in youth populations.

1 (d) GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS.—For the purpose of  
2 this Act, an eligible grant entity includes—

3 (1) State, local, or tribal governments or agen-  
4 cies focusing on at-risk youth;

5 (2) nonprofit organizations providing services  
6 for runaway, homeless, or foster care youth, or  
7 youth in the juvenile justice system who have been  
8 victims of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual  
9 assault, or stalking;

10 (3) nonprofit, community-based victim services  
11 organizations specializing in intervention or violence  
12 prevention services, youth batterer and offender  
13 treatment programs, teen parenting, or health and  
14 sex education services targeting youth;

15 (4) faith-based organizations that focus on  
16 youth counseling and crime prevention; and

17 (5) community-based, nonprofit organizations  
18 serving marginalized and at-risk youth.

19 (e) EVALUATION AND REPORTING.—Each year for  
20 which an entity receives a grant under this Act, the entity  
21 shall submit to the Attorney General an annual report de-  
22 tailing the activities carried out with such grant, including  
23 any additional information the Attorney General may re-  
24 quire.

1 **SEC. 5. REPORTING.**

2 For each fiscal year for which amounts are appro-  
3 priated to carry out this Act, the Attorney General shall  
4 submit to the appropriate Congressional committees and  
5 make widely available, including through electronic means,  
6 summaries of the activities carried out by the entities re-  
7 ceiving grants under this Act.

8 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) DATING VIOLENCE.—The term “dating vio-  
11 lence” has the meaning given the term in section  
12 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994  
13 (42 U.S.C. 13925).

14 (2) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—The term “domestic  
15 violence” has the meaning given the term in section  
16 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994  
17 (42 U.S.C. 13925).

18 (3) STALKING.—The term “stalking” has the  
19 meaning given the term in section 40002 of the Vio-  
20 lence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.  
21 13925).

22 (4) VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING  
23 VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING.—The  
24 term “victim of domestic violence, dating violence,  
25 sexual assault, or stalking” includes—

1 (A) a person who has been a victim of do-  
2 mestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault,  
3 or stalking; and

4 (B) a person whose family member or  
5 household member has been a victim of domes-  
6 tic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or  
7 stalking.

8 (5) VICTIM SERVICES ORGANIZATION.—The  
9 term “victim services organization” means a non-  
10 profit, nongovernmental organization that provides  
11 assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating vio-  
12 lence, sexual assault, or stalking, or to advocates for  
13 such victims, including a rape crisis center, an orga-  
14 nization carrying out a domestic violence program,  
15 an organization operating a shelter or providing  
16 counseling services, or an organization providing as-  
17 sistance through the legal process.

18 (6) YOUTH.—The term “youth” means any in-  
19 dividual age 11 to 25.

20 (7) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
21 TEES.—The term “appropriate Congressional com-  
22 mittees” means the Committee on the Judiciary of  
23 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
24 the Judiciary of the Senate.



1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this Act, \$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010  
4 through 2015. Not more than 10 percent of funds appro-  
5 priated to carry out this Act may be used for administra-  
6 tion, monitoring and evaluation, or technical assistance.

○