

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5846

To authorize the Attorney General to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate community violence by providing education, mentoring, and counseling services to children, adolescents, teachers, families, and community leaders on the principles and practice of nonviolence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Attorney General to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate community violence by providing education, mentoring, and counseling services to children, adolescents, teachers, families, and community leaders on the principles and practice of nonviolence.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Securing American
3 Families by Educating and Training You (SAFETY)
4 Through Nonviolence Act of 2016”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The concept and practice of nonviolent
8 thoughts, words, and actions have a history and a
9 legacy in the United States and the global commu-
10 nity.

11 (2) In the 19th century, American philosophers
12 and authors Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry
13 David Thoreau were leaders of the transcendentalist
14 philosophical movement which emphasized the poten-
15 tial good of humanity, the importance of truth, and
16 the courage and power of peace.

17 (3) In the early 20th century, Mohandas (Ma-
18 hatma) Gandhi advanced the concepts and practices
19 of ahimsa, or non-injury, and satya, or truth as inte-
20 gral to social and active concepts and practices.

21 (4) Gandhi continued Thoreau’s ideas of Civil
22 Disobedience in developing the doctrine of satyagra-
23 ha which connects truth and nonviolence to active ef-
24 forts in nonviolent, civil disobedience.

25 (5) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., built upon
26 these philosophies in developing six principles of

1 nonviolence. He explained these to be a way of life
2 which sought to build friendships and under-
3 standing, defeat injustice, accept suffering as a way
4 to educate and transform, and to choose love instead
5 of hate. Nonviolence's strength is reinforced by the
6 universe siding with justice.

7 (6) Rev. James E. Lawson, Jr., a leading theo-
8 rist and strategist, helped spread the philosophy and
9 doctrine of nonviolence by organizing and teaching
10 workshops to young activists during the American
11 Civil Rights Movement.

12 (7) During his presidency, Nelson Rolihlahla
13 Mandela expanded the spirit of ubuntu, the African
14 philosophy of the interconnectedness, caring, shar-
15 ing, and harmony of humanity, throughout the
16 world.

17 (8) According to the 2016 Global Peace Index,
18 violence cost \$13,600,000,000 in 2015. The fiscal
19 loss resulting from conflict greatly exceeds invest-
20 ments in peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

21 (9) Given its proven success and evolution, the
22 philosophy and doctrine of nonviolence can and
23 should play an important role in breaking the cycle
24 and reducing the frequency of violence throughout

1 the United States and as a model to the global com-
2 munity.

3 (10) These lessons, principles, and practices
4 should be made available to Americans of all ages
5 and backgrounds in all parts of the country.

6 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO EDUCATE AMERICANS ABOUT THE**
7 **PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE.**

8 (a) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may make
9 grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate the effects
10 of community violence by providing education, mentoring,
11 and counseling regarding the principles and application of
12 nonviolence in conflict resolution.

13 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
14 tion, the Attorney General shall give priority to applicants
15 that agree to use the grant in one or more eligible urban,
16 rural, tribal, and suburban communities that can certify—

17 (1) an increased or sustained level of violence or
18 tension in the community; or

19 (2) a lack of monetary or other resources to
20 adopt innovative, integrated, community-based vio-
21 lence prevention programs.

22 (c) LIMITATION.—The Attorney General may not
23 make a grant to an eligible entity under this section unless
24 the entity agrees to use not less than 70 percent of such

1 grant for nonviolence-prevention education and program
2 development.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “eligible
4 entity” means a State or local government entity (includ-
5 ing law enforcement), educational institution, nonprofit
6 community, or faith-based organization.

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
8 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
9 \$60,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2017 through
10 2022.

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