

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3908

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

OCTOBER 2, 2017

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing American
5 Families by Educating and Training You (SAFETY)
6 Through Nonviolence Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The concept and practice of nonviolent
4 thoughts, words, and actions have a history and a
5 legacy in the United States and the global commu-
6 nity.

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

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

17 (4) Gandhi continued Thoreau's ideas of Civil
18 Disobedience in developing the doctrine of satyagra-
19 ha which connects truth and nonviolence to active ef-
20 forts in nonviolent, civil disobedience.

21 (5) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., built upon
22 these philosophies in developing six principles of
23 nonviolence. He explained these to be a way of life
24 which sought to build friendships and under-
25 standing, defeat injustice, accept suffering as a way
26 to educate and transform, and to choose love instead

1 of hate. Nonviolence's strength is reinforced by the
2 universe siding with justice.

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

8 (7) During his Presidency, Nelson Rolihlahla
9 Mandela expanded the spirit of ubuntu, the African
10 philosophy of the interconnectedness, caring, shar-
11 ing, and harmony of humanity, throughout the
12 world.

13 (8) According to the 2017 Global Peace Index,
14 violence cost \$14,300,000,000 in 2016. The fiscal
15 loss resulting from conflict greatly exceeds invest-
16 ments in peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

17 (9) Given its proven success and evolution, the
18 philosophy and doctrine of nonviolence can and
19 should play an important role in breaking the cycle
20 and reducing the frequency of violence throughout
21 the United States and as a model to the global com-
22 munity.

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

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO EDUCATE AMERICANS ABOUT THE**
2 **PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF NON-**
3 **VIOLENCE.**

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

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

13 (1) an increased or sustained level of violence or
14 tension in the community; or

15 (2) a lack of monetary or other resources to
16 adopt innovative, integrated, community-based vio-
17 lence prevention programs.

18 (c) LIMITATION.—The Attorney General may not
19 make a grant to an eligible entity under this section unless
20 the entity agrees to use not less than 70 percent of such
21 grant for nonviolence-prevention education and program
22 development.

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

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
2 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
3 \$60,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through
4 2023.

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