

[Roll No. 236]

YEAS—219

Abraham Gabbard Moulton
 Aderholt Algeo Mullin
 Aguilar Garamendi Murphy (FL)
 Allen Garrett Nadler
 Amodei Gianforte Napolitano
 Arrington Gonzalez (TX) Newhouse
 Babin Goodlatte Norman
 Bacon Gowdy Nunes
 Banks (IN) Granger O'Rourke
 Barletta Griffith Olson
 Barr Guthrie Pascarell
 Barton Hanabusa Pelosi
 Bishop (UT) Handel Peters
 Black Harper Pingree
 Blum Harris Pocan
 Blumenauer Hartzler Posey
 Blunt Rochester Heck
 Bonamici Hensarling Rice (SC)
 Brat Higgins (LA) Rogers (KY)
 Brooks (IN) Higgins (NY) Rooney, Francis
 Brown (MD) Himes Rooney, Thomas
 Buchanan Hollingsworth J.
 Bucshon Huffman Ross
 Budd Hultgren Rothfus
 Bustos Issa Royce (CA)
 Butterfield Jeffries Ruppersberger
 Byrne Johnson (GA) Russell
 Calvert Johnson (LA) Sanford
 Carter (TX) Johnson, E. B. Scalise
 Cartwright Johnson, Sam Schneider
 Castro (TX) Joyce (OH) Schweikert
 Chabot Kaptur Scott, Austin
 Cheney Katko Scott, David
 Chu, Judy Kelly (MS) Sensenbrenner
 Cicilline Kelly (PA) Sessions
 Clay Kennedy Shea-Porter
 Clyburn Kildee Shimkus
 Cole King (IA) Shuster
 Collins (NY) King (NY) Simpson
 Comstock Knight Smith (MO)
 Cook Krishnamoorthi Smith (NE)
 Cooper Kuster (NH) Smith (NJ)
 Costello (PA) Kustoff (TN) Smith (TX)
 Courtney Labrador Smith (WA)
 Cramer LaMalfa Smucker
 Crawford Lamb Speier
 Culberson Lamborn Stefanik
 Cummings Larsen (WA) Stewart
 Curtis Larson (CT) Stivers
 Davidson Lesko Takano
 Davis (CA) Lewis (MN) Thornberry
 Davis, Danny Lipinski Titus
 Davis, Rodney Long Trotter
 DeGette Loudermilk Tsongas
 DeLauro Love Turner
 DelBene Lucas Vela
 Demings Luetkemeyer Wagner
 DeSaulnier Marchant Walden
 DesJarlais Marino Walker
 Deutch Marshall Walorski
 Dingell Massie Walters, Mimi
 Doggett McCarthy Wasserman
 Donovan McCaul Schultz
 Duffy McClintock Weber (TX)
 Duncan (TN) McCollum Webster (FL)
 Emmer McEachin Welch
 Engel McHenry Westerman
 Eshoo McMorris Williams
 Estes (KS) Rodgers Wilson (SC)
 Fleischmann Meadows Wittman
 Flores Meeks Womack
 Foster Meng Yarmuth
 Frankel (FL) Messer Young (IA)
 Frelinghuysen Mooney (WV) Zeldin

NAYS—177

Adams Carter (GA) Diaz-Balart
 Amash Castor (FL) Doyle, Michael
 Barragán Clark (MA) F.
 Bass Clarke (NY) Duncan (SC)
 Bera Cleaver Espallat
 Bergman Coffman Esty (CT)
 Beyer Cohen Evans
 Biggs Comer Faso
 Bishop (GA) Conaway Ferguson
 Blackburn Connolly Fitzpatrick
 Bost Correa Foxx
 Boyle, Brendan Costa Fudge
 F. Crist Gaetz
 Brady (PA) Crowley Gallagher
 Brownley (CA) Cuellar Gibbs
 Buck Curbelo (FL) Gohmert
 Burgess DeFazio Gosar
 Capuano Delaney Gottheimer
 Carbajal Denham Graves (GA)
 Carson (IN) DeSantis Graves (LA)

Graves (MO) Lowenthal Rosen
 Green, Al Lowey Roskam
 Green, Gene Lujan, Ben Ray Rouzer
 Grijalva MacArthur Roybal-Allard
 Grothman Maloney, Carolyn B. Ruiz
 Hastings Maloney, Sean Rush
 Herrera Beutler Maloney, Sean Rutherford
 Hice, Jody B. Mast Ryan (OH)
 Hill Matsui Sarbanes
 Holding McGovern Schakowsky
 Hoyer McKinley Schiff
 Hudson McSally Schrader
 Huizenga Mitchell Scott (VA)
 Hurd Moolenaar Serrano
 Jackson Lee Moore Sewell (AL)
 Jayapal Neal Sinema
 Jenkins (KS) Nolan Sires
 Jenkins (WV) Norcross Soto
 Johnson (OH) O'Halleran Suozzi
 Jones Pallone Swalwell (CA)
 Jordan Palmer Taylor
 Keating Panetta Tenney
 Kelly (IL) Paulsen Thompson (CA)
 Khanna Payne Thompson (MS)
 Kihuen Pearce Thompson (PA)
 Kilmer Perry Tipton
 Kind Peterson Torres
 Kinzinger Poe (TX) Upton
 LaHood Poliquin Valadao
 Lance Price (NC) Vargas
 Langevin Quigley Veasey
 Latta Raskin Velázquez
 Lawrence Reed Visclosky
 Lawson (FL) Renacci Walberg
 Levin Rice (NY) Watson Coleman
 Lewis (GA) Richmond Wenstrup
 Lieu, Ted Roe (TN) Woodall
 LoBiondo Rogers (AL) Yoder
 Loebsack Rokita Yoho
 Lofgren Ros-Lehtinen Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Tonko

NOT VOTING—30

Beatty Gutiérrez Polis
 Bilirakis Hunter Ratcliffe
 Bishop (MI) Lee Roby
 Brady (TX) Lujan Grisham, Rohrabacher
 Brooks (AL) M. Sánchez
 Cárdenas Lynch Sherman
 Collins (GA) McNerney Walz
 Dunn Noem Waters, Maxine
 Ellison Palazzo Wilson (FL)
 Fortenberry Perlmutter
 Gomez Pittenger

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1357

Mr. WELCH changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained to cast my votes on time. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 235 and "yea" on rollcall No. 236.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes on June 6, 2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Nay" on rollcall No. 234, "nay" on rollcall No. 235, and "yea" on rollcall No. 236.

□ 1400

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER
 AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR.
 MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS
 DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R.
 8

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during con-

sideration of H.R. 8 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 918, the amendment by Mr. MOULTON of Massachusetts now at the desk be considered as though printed as the last amendment printed in part A of House Report 115-711 and be debatable for 10 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Add at the end of title I the following:

**SEC. ____ CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING
 AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.**

Section 3(c) of the Act of August 13, 1946 (60 Stat. 1056, chapter 960; 33 U.S.C. 426g(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "\$30,000,000" and inserting "\$45,000,000"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "\$10,000,000" and inserting "\$15,000,000".

Page 55, line 1, strike "\$3,000,000,000" and insert "\$3,150,000,000".

Page 57, line 24, strike "\$3,000,000,000" and insert "\$3,150,000,000".

Mr. WOODALL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS
 GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZA-
 TION ACT OF 2017**

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 918, I call up the bill (H.R. 3249) to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "firearms offenses" means an offense under section 922 or 924 of title 18, United States Code;

(2) the term "Program" means the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program established under section 3; and

(3) the term "transnational organized crime group" has the meaning given such term in section 36(k)(6) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(6)).

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

The Attorney General of the United States is authorized to establish and carry out a program, to be known as the "Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program" within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice.

SEC. 4. PURPOSE.

(a) PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.—The purpose of the Program

is to foster and improve existing partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies, including the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial district, entities representing members of the community affected by increased violence, victims' advocates, and researchers to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in violent crimes by—

(1) developing and executing comprehensive strategic plans to reduce violent crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws, and prioritizing efforts focused on identified subsets of individuals or organizations responsible for increasing violence in a particular geographic area;

(2) developing evidence-based and data-driven intervention and prevention initiatives, including juvenile justice projects and activities which may include street-level outreach, conflict mediation, provision of treatment and social services, and the changing of community norms, in order to reduce violence; and

(3) collecting data on outcomes achieved through the Program, including the effect on the violent crime rate, incarceration rate, and recidivism rate of the jurisdiction.

(b) **ADDITIONAL PURPOSE AREAS.**—In addition to the purpose described in subsection (a), the Attorney General may use funds authorized under this Act for any of the following purposes—

(1) competitive and evidence-based programs to reduce gun crime and gang violence;

(2) the Edward Byrne criminal justice innovation program;

(3) community-based violence prevention initiatives; or

(4) gang and youth violence education, prevention and intervention, and related activities.

SEC. 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall issue guidance to create, carry out, and administer the Program in accordance with this section.

(b) **FUNDS TO BE DIRECTED TO LOCAL CONTROL.**—Amounts made available as grants under the Program shall be, to the greatest extent practicable, locally controlled to address problems that are identified locally.

(c) **TASK FORCES.**—Thirty percent of the amounts made available as grants under the Program each fiscal year shall be granted to Gang Task Forces in regions experiencing a significant or increased presence of criminal or transnational organizations engaging in high levels of violent crime, firearms offenses, human trafficking, and drug trafficking.

(d) **PRIORITY.**—Amounts made available as grants under the Program shall be used to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of individuals who have an aggravating or leadership role in a criminal or transnational organization described in subsection (c).

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General to carry out the Program \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Goodlatte moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3249.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from

Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3249.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, gangs are a poison in America. They bring violence, drugs, and death. They paralyze our communities with flagrant acts of violence and flood our neighborhoods with drugs. Gangs tear apart families by prematurely taking the lives of sons, daughters, and parents.

Unfortunately, today, some areas of our country have been overrun by gang violence. Homicide rates skyrocketed in St. Louis, Baltimore, and Chicago in 2016. Compared to the previous 5 years, 2016 represented a 15.8 percent increase in homicides in St. Louis, a 12.7 percent increase in Baltimore, and an 11.4 percent increase in Chicago.

We must stand up to violent gangs and provide an antidote to their poison.

H.R. 3249 is a vital part of the antidote. This legislation reforms and reauthorizes the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program. This program operates under four key principles: partnerships, strategic planning, training, and outreach.

First and foremost, the program brings all the important actors together. This legislation will foster and improve existing partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies, community groups, and researchers.

Strategic planning is the foundation of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program.

Moreover, H.R. 3249 promotes the robust enforcement of existing criminal laws and the development of intervention and prevention programs, such as juvenile justice projects and activities, including street-level outreach, conflict mediation, and social services. Intervention and prevention programs provide extensive training and community outreach.

Furthermore, in relying on localized and contemporaneous data, this bill strategically prioritizes a focus on individuals or organizations that are responsible for increasing violence in a particular geographic area.

This legislation will ensure that 30 percent of Project Safe Neighborhoods funding is allocated to gang task forces in regions experiencing a significant or increased presence of violent crime, firearm offenses, human trafficking, and drug trafficking.

As a result, critical resources, such as the deployment of law enforcement and funding, are put to their best use.

Altogether, this legislation takes a balanced approach by combining enforcement with prevention to combat gang violence in our communities across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the comprehensive, coordinated, and community-focused nature of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program will serve as a key part of the antidote to the poisonous effects gangs have on our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia, Congresswoman BARBARA COMSTOCK, for taking the lead on this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman is correct: the protection of our neighborhoods, the protection of our young people, the securing of our schools, the stopping of gun violence, the safeguarding of this Nation, are important responsibilities of this Congress, and certainly of the Nation itself. So I join with that commitment of safeguarding our neighbors and friends and families and our children.

So I would certainly like to say of the Senate amendment dealing with the Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2018, it does provide additional resources to help local jurisdictions prevent and fight crime in their communities. It would authorize the Attorney General to establish and implement a program to be known as the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice, thereby providing a formal authorization for the Project Safe Neighborhoods program, which is currently implemented by DOJ. That is an absolutely positive step to protect our neighborhoods.

Thirty percent of the funding awards under this program would be, however, allocated to fighting gang-related crime.

While I support authorizing this program, I would like to highlight two major concerns with this Senate amendment.

First, a substantial portion of the funding under this bill would be dedicated to anti-gang task forces. I support preventing and fighting crime no matter who the perpetrator may be, but I must caution against targeting groups of young people who are not engaged in crime, or who are standing around, or who may be, in essence, said to be engaged in crime, or may be from particular neighborhoods or ethnicities or backgrounds.

I think all of our children deserve a chance to grow and become contributing citizens. I would want to make sure that we get the gangs and that we get those who are the deadly ones that are killing and maiming, and those names, we know, have been cited, but I also want to make sure that we give our children a chance.

However, under the current framework, focus is placed on identified subsets of individuals or organizations responsible for increasing violence. This creates a danger where innocent young people will likely become targets, whether by virtue of clothes color or mere acquaintance of someone in light of the various talk, if you will, about gangs like MS-13, which I will acknowledge are in all of our communities from east to west and north to south.

Let's get the bad guys. Let's make sure we help our children not be destined to be the bad guys.

We must not use law enforcement as a means to target individuals based solely on their ethnicity or national origin. Far too often, the rhetoric that we are fighting gangs may be laced with bias toward difference.

That is why I wanted to offer an amendment at the Rules Committee to the Senate amendment, which would reflect the original provision offered by Representative COMSTOCK related to targeting groups. That was one that we were able to work with here in the House. That specific provision in H.R. 3249 was a much better provision.

If accepted, my amendment would have ensured that funding be allocated justly based on sincere need and not on abuse that may occur to demonstrate a significant or increased presence of criminal organizations; and, number two, prevent funding being used towards a wide range of people that might need help, but labeled as criminal groups, rather than the smaller number of people in communities responsible, as you will hear law enforcement say, for the majority of violent crimes, like concentrated transnational organized crime groups as defined by the statute.

This eliminates the sweeping effect this bill will have in application, where groups of people not defined by statute as transnational organized crime groups will become targets based on possible biases or rhetoric launched at particular classes of people.

We cannot ignore that unfortunately, in the reality of our times, things may go awry. Therefore, in addition to introducing legislation, we must be vigilant in conducting oversight of the use of program funds and in protecting against such possible abuse.

Second, I have concerns about the provision of the bill that focuses on data-driven intervention. I advocate instead for a robust focus on prevention-driven initiatives that will save us an enormous amount of money when done effectively.

That is why I wanted to offer a second amendment which would amend the Crime Control Safe Streets Act of 1968 to allow for strong emphasis on gang prevention programs, which is key to curtailing much of these problems. It is imperative to provide front-end mechanisms that would prevent the problems that are often costly, resulting in both human costs and tax dollars for our prisons.

□ 1415

This amendment was practical and inexpensive.

Now, let me clarify something. Data is very important because it helps us move toward best practices. But in addition to data, we need to be able to use our good sense to talk about intervention, prevention, and working with youngsters again, who may be categorized as being violent but, instead, may be the right kind of targets for intervention and prevention programs.

This Senate amendment authorizes \$50 million for each of the fiscal years 2019 to 2021, \$150 million. The Senate amendment does not comply with House Republican CutGo requirements so that \$50 million may be authorized for the program for this time.

I certainly believe where we are trying to help children, we should also take that into consideration, particularly with prevention and intervention or gang violence and antibullying initiatives. They are equally worthy goals.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to look further into how we continue to work together and to work to monitor this legislation to ensure that there is not an adverse impact on individuals clearly because of neighborhoods and backgrounds, because that is what America is all about: an equal opportunity for particularly our young people, to get out of where they are and to be able to surge to be a good and contributing citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Senate amendment to H.R. 3249, the "Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Act of 2017".

This Senate amendment would provide additional resources to help local jurisdictions prevent and fight crime in their communities.

It would authorize the Attorney General to establish and implement a program, to be known as the "Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program" (Program), within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) at the Department of Justice (DOJ), thereby providing a formal authorization for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, which is currently implemented by DOJ.

Thirty percent of the funding awards under this Program would be allocated to fighting gang-related crime. While I support authorizing this Program, I would like to highlight two major concerns of this Senate amendment.

First, a substantial portion of the funding under this bill would be dedicated to anti-gang task forces. I support preventing and fighting crime no matter who the perpetrator may be, but I must caution against targeting groups of young people who are not engaged in crime.

However, under the current framework, focus is placed on "identified subsets of individuals or organizations" responsible for increasing violence. This creates a danger, where innocent young people will likely become targets, whether by virtue of clothes color or mere acquaintance of someone, in light of the administrations' rhetoric around MS-13s. We must not use law enforcement as a means to target individuals based solely on their ethnicity or national origin. Far too often, the rhetoric of fighting gangs has been laced with racial bias.

This is why I offered an amendment at Rules to this Senate amendment, which would reflect the original provision offered by Rep. COMSTOCK relating to targeted groups. That specific provision in H.R. 3249 was a much better provision.

If accepted, my amendment would have:

1) ensured that funding be allocated justly based on sincere need and not on abuse that may occur to demonstrate a "significant or increased presence" of criminal organizations; and 2) prevented funding being used towards a wide range of people that need help but labeled as criminal gangs, rather than the small number of people in communities responsible for majority of violent crimes, like concentrated "transnational organized crime groups", as defined by statute.

This eliminates the sweeping effect this bill will have in application, where groups of people not defined by statute as "transnational organized crime groups" will become targets based on biases and/or rhetoric launched at a particular class of people.

We cannot ignore that unfortunate reality of current times. Therefore, in addition to introducing legislation, we must be vigilant in conducting oversight of the use of Program funds and in protecting against such possible abuse.

Second, I have concerns about the provisions of the bill that focus on data-driven intervention and I advocate instead, for a robust focus on prevention-driven initiatives that will save us enormous amount of money when done effectively.

This is why I offered a 2nd amendment, which would amend the Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to allow for strong emphasis on gang prevention programs, which is key to curtailing much of these problems. It is imperative to provide front-end mechanisms that would prevent the problems that are often costly, resulting in both human cost and tax dollars for our prisons. This amendment was practical and inexpensive.

This Senate amendment authorizes \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021, totaling \$150,000,000.

This Senate amendment does not comply with House Republican "cut-go" requirements so that \$50 million may be authorized for the Program for this time period. I believe prevention and intervention of gang violence and anti-bullying are equally worthy goals.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to pursue avenues that will not adversely impact individuals based solely on their ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I do not argue against the merit of this Program. It would be but one facet of DOJ's efforts to address gun and gang violence at the local, state, and tribal levels. We should view it from that holistic perspective, and as an effort to supplement but not supplant alternatives that may employ different, yet, still-effective approaches.

During the Committee's consideration of the H.R. 3249, we expressed these funding concerns, and urged that these funding prohibitions be eliminated.

Today, we also address the concerns in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3249, which states as a purpose:

Developing and executing comprehensive strategic plans to reduce violent crimes "including the enforcement of gun laws, and prioritizing efforts focused on 'identified subsets of individuals or organizations' responsible for increasing violence in a particular geographic area."

For these reasons, I respectfully request serious consideration of these concerns and caution against possible abuse that may occur, which will prove counterproductive.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Members of this body to concur with the Senate amendment to my bill, the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018, so that we may send this bill to the President for his signature.

I appreciate all the work that Chairman GOODLATTE and the committee has done and the bipartisan nature in which they have worked with us, as well as the administration and the Attorney General.

This bill will help address the problem of the rise of violence from gangs like MS-13 that have threatened my area in Northern Virginia, as well as the entire Washington metropolitan region and other places such as Long Island, Houston, and Los Angeles. MS-13 is actually active in 40 States and the District of Columbia, and their goal is to grow.

Gangs like MS-13 have branched into human trafficking as well as drugs and, of course, their murderous rampages. In Virginia, we actually, several years ago, increased the penalties on any of these gang members involved with human trafficking, so we know we constantly need to change how we address these gangs.

Now, let's just look at some of the recent headlines in The Washington Post, our local paper, which they have actually covered the violence, the murders, the trials and more of the approximately over 30 killings over the past several years, and that is the number according to the gang task force.

Here are some of the headlines:

"MS-13 Is 'Taking Over the School,' One Teen Warned Before She Was Killed."

"He Was Flashing Gang Signs on Facebook. It Got Him Killed by MS-13."

"Heinous and Violent: MS-13's Appeal to Girls Grows as Gang Become Americanized."

And finally, one: "She Told the Girl She'd See Her in Hell Before Stabbing Her. Now She's Guilty of an MS-13 Murder."

That particular murder was detailed about a young woman, Damaris Reyes Rivas, and her body was found here, this highway, which is just in Springfield, in Virginia, about a dozen, a little over a dozen miles here from the Capitol. You can see the MS-13 gang signs here, and that is where they left her body.

At age 12, Damaris was brought to the U.S. by her mom to escape gangs in El Salvador. By 15, she was dead, killed by those very gangs, numerous gang

members, who then sent a video of her killing back to El Salvador because that is one of their goals, to show what they have done here.

Just to give you a little detail on this, Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh played the videos in court, saying he wanted to make clear for the judge the depravity involved in the horrific murder of the high school girl. Her mother was in the courtroom.

The prosecutor said: "Some kids are prodigies at the violin, and some kids are prodigies at violence. This is a prodigy at violence."

The first video shows Damaris in the Springfield, Virginia, woods, being interrogated by the gang members, numerous gang members, all of whom were between the ages of 15 and 21. They shout at her as she gets up from the snow-dusted ground.

At one point, they clicked a cigar cutter, threatening her that she could lose a finger. They made her take off her shoes and her shirt so she could feel how cold it was. They were interrogating her about a previous MS-13 murder.

People were wielding knives, and they could hear, "Just stick the steel in her," another one was telling them. They took her away to another area, then they took her back into the woods, forcing her to crawl through a 3-foot tunnel covered in MS-13 graffiti. Then they brutally murdered her, and they left her body, and then they came back that night to take the video of the murder to be able to send it back.

As the prosecutor explained, those videos were taken so some of the MS-13 members could send it back to El Salvador to earn a promotion within the gang, which requires violence to move up the ranks.

Now, these are The Washington Post stories, I should add, and they also have written stories about how gangs are a problem in our jails. This is in Maryland.

It says: "'Our incidents every month are predominantly MS-13,' said a jail investigator speaking on the condition of anonymity for his safety. 'They are vying for the control of our jails.'"

So there is violence going on in our jails as a result of this also.

We had another victim, Carlos Otero Hernandez, in Leesburg, Virginia. His body was dumped in a quarry in West Virginia after a brutal murder. The acting U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Virginia said of the killing: "The hallmark of MS-13 is extreme violence. . . . This brutal kidnapping and murder is a tragic reminder of the impact MS-13 has on communities here in Northern Virginia."

MS-13 gangs prey on their own community, as the example of this young woman.

Last summer, I went on a ride-along with the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, which is comprised of 13 local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies working together.

They are going to be—they should be—some of the beneficiaries of the bill here today.

I do want to assure everyone, they work very carefully with the community. What they do is—their projects are to educate, to prevent, to work with the children in schools. They have Spanish-speaking members of the task force so they can make sure they are working with the kids to keep them safe.

In one case, they had an MS-13 member who was trying to recruit his brother to join the gang, and then when his brother would not join the gang, they put a hit out on the brother. Fortunately, the gang task force was able to intervene, protect that brother, sort of a Cain and Abel type of situation. Abel was protected. Cain, we were able to have the task force deal with him.

But what I saw in working with the Task Force is their need for more technology, their need for resources. Whenever I talk to them, they talk about how they need to be out in the schools, at the fairs.

At one local fair in Herndon, actually, I believe it was in Mr. CONNOLLY's district, the task force told me, at a Labor Day fair, they identified up to about 200 suspected gang members, just in there, weaving about among the children.

So when we went on the ride-along with them, in one night, they picked up four suspected gang members. One of them turned out to be somebody who, at 16 years old, had committed murder in El Salvador; and then he had already been deported from the country twice and was now back on Sterling Boulevard in Sterling, Virginia, about 25 miles or so from the Capitol. There he was, on a Friday evening, as children and everyone else were playing around. He was covered with gang signs when he lifted up his shirt.

One of the tools that our gang task force needs more of is a little device that looks a lot like an iPad where, when you put the fingerprint of that gang member on the pad, his record then came up and we could see the entire record, and the gang task force members knew who they were dealing with.

So it is clear that the resurgence of MS-13 is a multifaceted problem that needs a multifaceted solution, incorporating efforts from all levels of government, law enforcement, and communities. Passing the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Authorization Act of 2018 today, which the Senate has now already passed, will really get us back on the path to getting the resources that they previously had in our local task force.

They called us today to let us know they aren't even getting the money that they used to get. Unfortunately, this was State money that they used to get that they aren't getting anymore that the State attorney general's office used to provide them, and now they

aren't getting it. So this is needed more than ever in regions like ours.

I know the gentlewoman in Houston, they have problems there, too, and the beauty of this program is they work with those communities that are being targeted. They work with those children. They protect them. They become their friends. But they also get the MS-13 gang members out.

Now, we do have another bill that I know the chairman worked with us to get out, which would make sure that we don't have MS-13 gang members able to get in the country in the first place; and if they are here, we can remove them more quickly. That still needs to get through Senate passage also.

But I am pleased that now, today, we have been able to make sure that we don't see this proliferating in our communities, this kind of gang activity, and to see these gang signs as we are driving home from work, going to a soccer game, you know, going to see our kids, and seeing that this is going on in our communities. This is something that cannot be happening in our communities.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation to protect our communities and combat gang violence and provide more safe neighborhoods.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Virginia is absolutely right on our commitment to working to protect the children that we don't want to be the victims. Certainly, gangs like MS-13 are in many places, and that is what my focus is. Those bad guys, those who would do harm, clearly, we stand united on.

At the same time, I want to make sure that those who stumble in have alternatives, particularly in this country, to get out of that web. As we protect against them and give law enforcement their tools, I want to make sure that we give to others to find other ways to move away from this so that the bad intent, the murderous intent of those gangs can be separated and handled by law enforcement, while other young people have other opportunities.

I might also say that I would hope that the Department of Justice will fund this program and, when I say that, Congress will work with us to fund other programs of intervention.

So I might, if I could, engage the chairman in a colloquy. I would be eager to hear the gentleman's thoughts on this thought.

I am concerned that all of the talk of fighting gang violence may be, beyond this august Hall, laced with bias, racial bias, ethnicity, et cetera. The Senate amendment includes a reference to focusing on identified subsets of individuals and organizations responsible for increasing violence in a particular geographic area. I might indicate that that may be some bad behavior kids.

Will the gentleman assure me that the intent of this provision referring to subsets of individuals is not to encourage or condone the targeting of anyone because of their race or national origin and that they happen to be in groups?

Mr. GOODLATTE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

This legislation is intended to help our communities fight criminal gangs and the violence and mayhem they wreak, and the bill is not intended to target anyone because of their race or national origin.

□ 1430

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I just wanted to make a concluding comment. We worked together on this. Would the gentleman also say that intervention and prevention programs are a positive contribution to helping our young people stay away from violence?

Mr. GOODLATTE. If the gentlewoman will continue to yield, yes, I do. And I certainly support, at every level of government, making sure that we are doing what we can to intervene and get people headed in the right direction and avoiding some of those problems in the first place. And, certainly, some of that is contained within the programs that are funded by this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly look forward to working further with the gentleman on these matters, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK).

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I think when I was speaking about the ride along that I did with the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, someone said they thought they heard me say they had picked up 14 in one night. I just wanted to clarify. If it sounded like 14, I meant to say 4. So it was four in one night. Nevertheless, it goes to the problem of right in our communities there were four people there that they were able to pick up.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, let me just say, we have a solid and unified commitment to protect our children, our neighborhoods, our families, and to isolate violent gangs, some of whom carry the name MS-13, but also to work with law enforcement as they work to isolate those violent persons, but help find a way to steer other juveniles into a way of redemption, if I might utilize that term.

Mr. Speaker, I want to continue working with the Judiciary Committee and my colleagues on that very point. So, Mr. Speaker, I do not argue the

merit of this program. It would be but one facet of DOJ's efforts to address gun and gang violence at the local, State, and Tribal levels. We would view it from the holistic perspective and as an effort to supplement, but not supplant, alternatives that may employ different yet still effective approaches. And that is antibullying, bullying intervention, intervention in gang activity, cyberbullying, and prevention of gang activities from the perspective that we understand in our neighborhoods.

During the committee's consideration of H.R. 3249, we expressed these funding concerns and urged that these fund prohibitions be eliminated. What I want to see is other programs continue to be funded that can help law enforcement and others on the question of prevention.

Today, we also address concerns in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3249 which states as a purpose, developing and executing comprehensive strategic plans to reduce violent crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws and prioritizing efforts focused on identifying subsets of individuals and organizations responsible for increasing violence and in a particular geographic area.

I want to thank the chairman for what I believe is a clarification on the record, and we will continue to monitor as we work with our law enforcement across the Nation. For these reasons, I am respectfully asking that we continue to express our concerns, that we review it, that we ensure that the DOJ, as it works through these grants, continues to keep our legislative thoughts in mind so that this bill is productive and certainly not counterproductive of what we intend to do.

Mr. Speaker, I again indicate a commitment that all of us have to get rid of those who terrorize our neighborhoods through the violence of gangs, like MS-13, and save our children who can be saved—which I know they can be—in our neighborhoods and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into passing this very important legislation which will now go to the President's desk for his signature, and will do a lot of good in fighting gang violence and helping young people steer toward a better future and a better life.

Both of those things are the purpose of this legislation. I want to especially thank, again, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK) for her long-dedicated work to fighting gang violence and helping our young people have better opportunities for the future, not only in Virginia, but all across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2018

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 8.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 918 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 8.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1437

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. PALMER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring to the floor today the Water Resources Development Act of 2018. This marks the third Congress in a row that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the House will consider a water resources bill, so we are back to regular order when it comes to WRDA.

I hope we bring it to the floor today, and I hope we pass a WRDA bill. That is good news for the American people and the American economy, because WRDA works. WRDA works because it ensures that Congress carries out its clear Federal role in addressing infrastructure that is critical to our commerce and competitiveness, and to protecting communities throughout the country.

WRDA authorizes targeted investments in America's harbors, ports, locks, dams, inland waterways, flood protection, environmental restoration, and other water resources infrastructure.

This infrastructure, maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is vital to every part of the country and every American benefits from it. You don't have to live near a port or a major waterway to experience these benefits. The health of this infrastructure directly impacts how efficiently the things we buy get onto our store shelves, and how quickly the goods that we produce get to markets around the world.

WRDA improvements originate at the local level. They grow our local, regional, and national economies, and they create good-paying jobs. Restoring WRDA legislation to a 2-year congressional cycle was one of the first goals when I became chairman in 2013. By working together, we passed WRDA into law in 2014 and 2016.

Both of these measures attracted broad bipartisan support, and this bill is no different, passing out of our committee unanimously 2 weeks ago. I want to thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO, Water Resources Environment Subcommittee Chairman GARRET GRAVES, and Subcommittee Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO for working with me to introduce this bill.

Our bipartisan legislation follows the fiscally responsible, transparent process for considering Corps activities that Congress established in 2014. It maintains strong congressional oversight and the constitutional authority of the Legislative Branch. It deauthorizes old projects to fully offset new authorizations, and sunsets new authorizations to prevent future backlogs.

WRDA also builds on past reforms of the Corps and explores new ways to deliver projects more efficiently. In keeping with traditional WRDAs, my co-sponsors and I agreed to narrowly focus our bill on the civil works program of the Corps. Preserving the civil works focus of this bill increases the likelihood of final passage.

If we don't enact a bill into law this year, we will delay necessary water infrastructure improvements and increase project costs. Let's approve this vital bill today. Let's build our water infrastructure. Let's grow our economy, and let's create jobs. Let's pass WRDA, because WRDA does work, and

let's ensure that WRDA continues to work for the American people.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to a good debate today and to moving this bill to the Senate, so I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 8.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2018.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 8, the Water Resources Development Act of 2018.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 8—WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2018

As reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on June 1, 2018

SUMMARY

H.R. 8 would authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to construct projects to improve navigation and flood management, to mitigate storm and hurricane damage and to provide assistance for water recycling and water treatment projects. The bill also would authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist states and local governments in mitigating flood risks from aging dams and levees. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 8 would cost about \$1.1 billion over the next five years and \$2.5 billion over the 2019–2028 period, assuming appropriation of authorized and necessary amounts.

Enacting H.R. 8 also would increase direct spending by \$5 million over the 2019–2028 period; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The bill would authorize the Corps to convey nine acres of federal land to the city of Nashville, Tennessee, in exchange for the fair market value of the property, which CBO estimates would total about \$1 million. The bill also would authorize the Corps to credit the nonfederal sponsor of the Kismimmee River Restoration Project for certain in-kind contributions totaling \$6 million. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 8 would significantly increase direct spending by more than \$2.5 billion and on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in at least one of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029, by authorizing the Corps to spend amounts in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund without further appropriation.

H.R. 8 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 8 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).