

Valadao	Waltz	Williams (TX)
Van Deyn	Weber (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Van Drew	Webster (FL)	Wittman
Wagner	Wenstrup	Womack
Walberg	Westerman	Zeldin

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Pressley

NOT VOTING—1

Cheney

□ 1328

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

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Bucshon)	Gonzales, Tony	Norman (Babin)
Barr (Guthrie)	(Fleischmann)	Palazzo
Barragan (Beyer)	Granger (Ellzey)	(Fleischmann)
Bass (Correa)	Johnson (GA)	Pascrell
Blumenauer	(Pallone)	(Pallone)
(Beyer)	Johnson (TX)	Payne (Pallone)
Bowman (Ocasio-Cortez)	(Stevens)	Perlmutter
	Keating (Correa)	(Neguse)
Brown (MD)	Kinzinger	Quigley (Kelly)
(Trone)	(Meijer)	(IL)
Burgess (Weber)	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)
(TX)	(Pallone)	(Wasserman)
Bustos	Lamb (Pallone)	Schultz
(Brownley)	Long	Rice (SC)
Cawthorn	(Fleischmann)	(Meijer)
(Donalds)	Loudermilk	Ryan (OH)
Chu (Beyer)	(Fleischmann)	(Correa)
Conway	Mace (Timmons)	Sánchez
(LaMalfa)	McEachin	(Pallone)
Cuellar (Garcia)	(Beyer)	Scott, David
(TX)	Meng (Escobar)	(Correa)
DeSaulnier	Moore (WI)	Sewell (Cicilline)
(Beyer)	(Beyer)	Sires (Pallone)
DesJarlais	Moulton	Suozi (Beyer)
(Fleischmann)	(Stevens)	Swaiwell
Dingell (Stevens)	Murphy (FL)	(Correa)
Fallon (Ellzey)	Moore (WI)	Vargas (Correa)
Frankel, Lois	(Wasserman)	Welch (Pallone)
(Brownley)	Schultz	Wilson (SC)
Gibbs (Bucshon)	Napolitano	(Dunn)
Gomez (Correa)	(Correa)	Newman (Beyer)

□ 1330

MENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE ACT OF 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1377, I call up the bill (H.R. 8542) to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to States, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Urban Indian organizations, and political subdivisions thereof to hire, employ, train, and dispatch mental health professionals to respond in lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies involving one or more persons with a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE). Pursuant to House Resolution 1377, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8542

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mental Health Justice Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO ACT AS FIRST RESPONDERS.

Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-31 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 520N. GRANTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO ACT AS FIRST RESPONDERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary, and in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, shall award grants to States, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Urban Indian organizations, and political subdivisions thereof to establish or expand programs—

"(1) to hire, employ, train, and dispatch mental health professionals to respond in lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies in which—

"(A) an individual calling 911, 988, or another emergency hotline states that a person—

"(i) is in a mental health crisis; or

"(ii) may have a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability;

"(B) a law enforcement officer or other first responder identifies a person as having (or possibly having) a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability; or

"(C) a law enforcement officer or other first responder identifies a person as being (or possibly being) under the influence of a legal or illegal substance;

"(2) to include in the training for mental health professionals pursuant to paragraph (1) training in—

"(A) the principles of deescalation; and

"(B) developmentally appropriate techniques;

"(3) to ensure that such mental health professionals link persons described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) with voluntary community-based services where appropriate;

"(4) to train the staff of dispatch centers regarding the proper handling of a report of an emergency described in paragraph (1), including training in the principles and techniques referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2); and

"(5) to coordinate with law enforcement agencies, which may include operating independently from but in collaboration with a law enforcement agency, or operating within such an agency.

"(b) ADDITIONAL AWARDS.—The Secretary shall make an additional award of funds under this section each fiscal year to grantees that—

"(1) are in compliance with all conditions of their awards under this section, including the conditions specified in subsections (a) and (d); and

"(2) demonstrate that their programs under this section resulted in—

"(A) a notable reduction in the incarceration and death of persons with mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability; or

"(B) a notable reduction in the use of force by police and a notable increase in referrals of persons with a mental illness or intellectual disability to community-based, voluntary support services (other than institutionalization or carceral support services).

"(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to States, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Urban Indian organizations, and political subdivisions thereof that—

"(1) have high rates of arrests and incarceration of persons with a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability;

"(2) commit to increasing resources for mental health and community-based support services or solutions for such persons; or

"(3) include peer support specialists in their current first responder model.

"(d) REPORTING.—

"(1) BY GRANTEEES.—A recipient of a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary—

"(A) a quarterly report on—

"(i) the number and percentage of emergencies where mental health professionals were dispatched in lieu of law enforcement officers pursuant to assistance under this section;

"(ii) such other matters as the Secretary may require for determining whether the recipient should receive an additional award under subsection (b); and

"(iii) any increase or decrease, compared to any previous quarter, in incarceration or institutionalization as a result of dispatching mental health professionals pursuant to assistance under this section, disaggregated to include data specific to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental illnesses where available and permitted to be disclosed under applicable privacy law, so as—

"(I) to provide a critical baseline analysis; and

"(II) to ensure that mental health practitioners are not simply funneling individuals into other institutionalized settings; and

"(B) a final report on the use of such grant.

"(2) BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after awarding the first grant under this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the grant program under this section.

"(3) DISAGGREGATION OF DATA.—The reporting pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) shall, to the extent determined by the Secretary to be applicable, be disaggregated by age, sex, gender, race, and ethnicity.

"(e) REVOCATION OF GRANT.—If the Secretary finds, based on reporting under subsection (d) or other information, that activities funded through a grant under this section are leading to a significant increase in incarceration or institutionalization—

"(1) the Secretary shall revoke the grant; and

"(2) the grantee shall repay to the Federal Government any amounts that the grantee—

"(A) received through the grant; and

"(B) has not obligated or expended.

"(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary, and in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, shall provide technical assistance to grantees under this section (or other Federal law), and to other States, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Urban Indian organizations, and political subdivisions thereof to hire, employ, train, and dispatch mental health professionals to respond in lieu of law enforcement officers, as described in subsection (a).

"(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'Indian Tribe', 'Tribal organization', and 'Urban Indian organization' have the meanings given to the terms 'Indian tribe', 'tribal organization', and 'Urban Indian organization', respectively, in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

"(h) FUNDING.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2023 through 2027."

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of programs and

activities under section 520N of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 2.

(b) QUALITATIVE AND LONGITUDINAL EXAMINATION.—The study under subsection (a) shall include a qualitative and longitudinal study of—

(1) the number of persons diverted from arrests; and

(2) short- and long-term outcomes for those persons, including reduced recidivism, reduced incidences of use of force, and reduced utilization of resources.

(c) COMPLETION; REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice shall—

(1) complete the study under subsection (a);

(2) submit a report to the Congress on the results of such study; and

(3) publish such report.

#### SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) HIRING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to remove, supplant, alter, or limit the authority of States, public agencies, or municipalities from hiring or recruiting career law enforcement officers (as defined in section 1709 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389)) to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, or investigation of violations of criminal laws when appropriate.

(b) CIRCUMSTANCES OF IMMINENT OR IMMEDIATE DANGER.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to impede, supplant, alter, or limit the use of career law enforcement officers during emergencies which career law enforcement officers may be best suited to handle, including circumstances that are urgent, sudden, serious, or necessitate immediate action to remedy harm or avert imminent danger to life, health, or property.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8542, the Mental Health Justice Act of 2022.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 8542, the Mental Health Justice Act of 2022, sponsored by Congresswoman KATIE PORTER of California.

As my colleagues well know, the Nation is facing a mental health crisis. One in five adults experience a mental health illness in their life, and 1 in 20 experience a serious mental illness.

The Mental Health Justice Act creates a grant program for local governments to hire, train, and dispatch men-

tal health professionals when 911 is called because someone is experiencing a mental health crisis.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure people have access to the support they need, especially in moments of crisis when emergency responders are called.

This legislation would help support connecting those experiencing a mental health crisis with the appropriate responders, resources, and care. The appropriate responder here is crucial. In an effort to balance the needs of individuals and communities, this bill still maintains States' and public entities' hiring and recruiting authority for law enforcement officers and in no way limits their ability to intervene in dangerous circumstances.

It is through such coordination and collaboration with law enforcement and the community that we make our communities safer.

By ensuring that a mental health professional is the responder in situations where a person is experiencing a mental health or disability-related crisis, this bill will help keep some of the most vulnerable members of our community safe.

This is a good bill that will help strengthen the communities we serve, and I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 8542 today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 8542, the Mental Health Justice Act of 2022.

"In lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies." I am going to say it again, because that is the exact language used repeatedly in the bill. "In lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies."

Mr. Speaker, this bill is dangerous. This legislation gives Federal grants to States, Tribes, and localities to hire mental health providers to respond to certain emergencies involving an individual with an intellectual disability or developmental disability; an individual experiencing a mental health crisis; or an individual under the influence.

There is nothing wrong with mental health professionals assisting law enforcement in appropriate circumstances. Communities around the country are adopting these models with law enforcement, mental health providers, and prosecutors.

I would be open to supporting legislation limited to training mental health providers to assist law enforcement in appropriate situations, but that is not what this bill does.

A sentence in the bill begins by stating that "mental health providers may coordinate with law enforcement." Sounds acceptable, but it continues to read, "which may include operating independently" from law enforcement.

Let's be clear. The purpose of this legislation is to provide financial in-

centives to deploy mental health providers in lieu of law enforcement and operating independently of law enforcement. That is a policy that will endanger the mental health professional, the suspect, the person experiencing the mental health crisis, and the person who called 911.

A crime scene or a home experiencing a domestic violence dispute is not the setting to provide mental health care.

In the first half of 2022, the leading circumstance of law enforcement officers killed with firearms was in response to domestic violence calls.

Nobody can confidently tell us they know in advance which domestic violence call should get a mental health response instead of a law enforcement response.

Mental health professionals are not trained for the inevitable physical confrontations that occur in these situations. The priority in an emergency situation is to secure the scene and all individuals involved, which is a law enforcement function. Once the scene is secure, I will be the first person calling for mental health services, whether it is addiction-related, trauma, or mental illness.

There is a time and a place for mental health care, but it is not rolling up to a scene without the training and tools to defend yourself and at-risk civilians. A first responder typically does not have the time and information to know when it is appropriate to provide mental health services.

Who are we expecting to make the distinction on mental health? The 911 dispatcher? An elected official inserted into the emergency dispatch process?

Every additional second layer of bureaucracy will cost lives. The risks are even greater in rural parts of the country, like my home State of North Dakota, where backup is often measured in hours, not minutes.

Ask a mental health provider if they want to be deployed without law enforcement at 1 a.m. on the side of Highway 85 between Dickinson and Watford City.

As if the public safety concerns aren't enough, the bill provides additional financial incentives for the actions that may not be in the best interest of the individual, the community, or comply with established laws of the jurisdiction.

The bill provides additional awards for referrals to community-based, voluntary support services without consideration of the specific needs and circumstances.

Community-based care could be the appropriate setting, but there are circumstances where inpatient care or incarceration are simply more appropriate.

The bill also provides incentives for decarceration rates of certain groups of individuals. Again, decarceration may make sense at times. I have advocated for it in lots of circumstances, but it is

case specific. I have seen it before. Police arrest on a domestic violence charge, release, and respond to a murder 2 hours later.

These decisions should be made at the local level based on specific circumstances with State and local input.

This bill attempts to treat the subject of the 911 call with fairness and dignity. That is something we should all strive toward. The flip side is that this bill does not account for the person who made the 911 call.

These policies will not work in the real world. It will only make dangerous situations more dangerous. The unintended consequences of this bill are extensive, and emergency situations will become more dangerous than they already are.

This is why we need committee process to work through these challenging issues. Criminal justice reform is hard. There are lots and lots of unintended consequences. I have legitimately worked on it my entire adult life. But my Democratic colleagues skipped that process because their focus is on front-line elections in the House, not front-line communities battling rising crime rates.

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

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill.

Make no mistake, this bill is a Trojan horse to advance the radical defund the police movement and will hurt people who need help the most.

This bill would not only keep our dedicated law enforcement officers off the streets at a time when crime is rising and illicit drugs are flooding communities but, also, could significantly reduce access to care for individuals with severe mental illness or substance use disorder. This bill would penalize organizations that have higher rates of institutionalization.

To be clear, we need to promote access to all types of behavioral healthcare and substance use disorder services. However, this bill does not take into account that sometimes these organizations provide the safest, most effective care for individuals with serious mental illness.

If Democrats' goal is to provide effective care for individuals with disabilities, severe mental illness, and substance use disorder, then we already have legislative solutions which this very body overwhelmingly passed in June of this year.

□ 1345

In June of this year, the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act was passed, and it would bolster behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment and recovery services for millions of Americans, most notably our children.

Democrats need to work with Republicans on addressing some of the root causes of crime, such as our border crisis that the Vice President insists is secure despite record numbers of border encounters and illicit drugs being trafficked into our country.

We have a solution in the Energy and Commerce Committee to provide law enforcement officers the tools they need to get drugs off our streets and break the cycle of addiction. The HALT Fentanyl Act would permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances as schedule I drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work with Republicans on passing this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I only have one speaker, so I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), my good friend.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 8542.

Plain and simple, this legislation would only amplify the violent crime wave we are currently seeing under Democratic leadership. Turn on the TV, watch the news. Night after night, we have to hear about the innocent lives taken from us because of the violence we are seeing in our streets. Just like other communities across the country, communities in Indiana aren't immune. Our hardworking law enforcement heroes alone are already struggling to keep up with this spike in crime.

This legislation does absolutely nothing to help. In fact, it will make the situation worse, making good on Democrats' promise to dismantle and defund the police.

These aren't policing bills. This is a way for the Democrats to just check a box in this election year. It is disrespectful to our law enforcement community and an insult to those struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues.

I have heard from countless county sheriffs and police chiefs back in my district who want to be a partner with mental health providers, not be replaced by them.

I implore my Democratic colleagues to end their war on law enforcement and come together to work with Republicans who want to make our communities safer.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), the sponsor of this legislation, someone who has worked so hard in her time here on mental health and behavioral health issues.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support getting Americans the help that they need.

More than one in five 911 calls involve mental health or substance use crises. That amounts to millions of calls per year.

To keep these Americans safe, we need to connect them to healthcare. It is wasteful, hurtful, and a travesty of

justice to criminalize people in mental health crises rather than deliver care.

One in four fatal law enforcement encounters ends the life of someone with mental illness. We cannot improve public safety without giving our communities a better response system for mental health crises.

My bill, the Mental Health Justice Act, funds local communities to create specialized mental health response units. Made up of trained health professionals, these units can be dispatched to respond to emergency calls for mental health. That way, people in crisis can get the care they need; police officers can focus on crime, including stopping violent crime and other core law enforcement duties; and our communities get another tool to address our mental health crisis.

The Mental Health Justice Act has widespread support from advocacy organizations fighting for mental health and civil rights because this approach works. In cities that already have these programs across the country, we see incredible, positive results and support from local law enforcement.

In Orange County, our law enforcement officials support this bill because their job is already difficult enough. They know their sworn duty is to prevent and solve crime and hold criminals accountable. Sending police to mental health situations diverts their attention from crime fighting. I have heard firsthand from officers who want specialized mental health response units. This bill empowers police to stay where they are needed, fighting crime.

At the same time, entangling people in mental health crises in the criminal justice system or holding them in jail wastes taxpayer dollars and doesn't deliver on public safety.

When we send police to people in crisis, we fail to get those people desperately needed healthcare, and we take law enforcement away from tackling the violent crime that they are trained to take on. This hurts everyone in our community.

The Mental Health Justice Act is supported by a broad bipartisan coalition, co-led by my colleague from Orange County, Republican MICHELLE STEEL, and my colleagues AYANNA PRESSLEY, TONY CÁRDENAS, and MARY GAY SCANLON.

Keeping Americans safe and healthy is not a partisan issue. I am proud to champion the Mental Health Justice Act, a tested, effective solution to promote public safety and well-being for every American.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill.

The crime rates that we have seen skyrocket across the United States can be traced directly back to calls from far-left Members of Congress to defund the police.

In my own district, we have seen more violent crimes than ever before. In the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a community of just 20,000 people, we have already seen 10 murders so far this year.

Instead of confronting this issue head-on, this legislative package spends out over \$2 billion to far-left programs while only funding \$60 million worth of grants for police officers, and that \$60 million would be spread out over 50 States.

This bill is deeply misguided and will not address the root issues of the crisis that we are facing. Instead, it spends Federal tax dollars funding social workers under the guise of supporting law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “no” on these bills, and I myself will vote “no.”

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this letter from the National District Attorneys Association in opposition to this legislation.

NATIONAL DISTRICT  
ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, September 21, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
Republican Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: I am reaching out on behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With more than 5,500 members nationwide, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. Today, I write with concern about H.R. 8542, the Mental Health Justice Act, as part of the policing package moving through Congress.

NDAA is strongly supportive of increasing funding for our partner law enforcement agencies, implementing new grants focused on reducing community violence, and assisting investigators in solving cold cases to better support victims of violent crime. However, prosecutors have significant concerns about the fourth legislative proposal which would establish new grants to “hire, employ, train, and dispatch mental health professionals to respond in lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies.”

Currently, law enforcement, prosecutors, and mental health professionals across the country are proactively and organically forming multidisciplinary teams and engaging in the co-responder model to better handle incidents involving individuals suffering from mental health crises. For example, jurisdictions have paired law enforcement officers, mental health clinicians, and community advocates together when responding to an individual’s mental health emergency called into a 911 dispatcher. This partnership is the first line of response and is then followed by coordination on the back end between additional health professionals and prosecutors to ensure a plan can be enacted

to provide the individual in crisis with a plan of rehabilitation that also ensures there is no public safety risk to the community. The language in the Mental Health Justice Act would undermine these collaborative efforts which have been shown to reduce violent crime, limit harm to responding law enforcement officers, and improve community trust in the criminal justice system.

Further, the legislation takes unprecedented steps to impose new grant conditions that require mental health professionals and community grantees to decrease incarceration and restrict partnership with law enforcement agencies. NDAA has long stated that any diversion or rehabilitation program, such as those led by co-responder teams, must include tools to ensure consequences are imposed if there are incidents of re-offending by the individual receiving treatment. Local communities are best suited to decide which models work best and these onerous new requirements could restrict or discourage programs from forming that serve the dual purpose of rehabilitation and community safety. These new conditions would undermine this principal and require our mental health partners to create new barriers between law enforcement and the clinical professionals working together to improve our Nation’s response to ongoing mental health emergencies.

For these reasons, NDAA urges the House of Representatives to strongly reconsider including the Mental Health Justice Act as part of the important police funding package moving through the chamber. We thank you for your tireless efforts to improve the criminal justice system and look forward to working alongside you and your staff to ensure law enforcement and the mental health community have the tools needed to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. FLYNN,  
NDAA President.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close. The only time you know a traffic stop is routine is when it is over. The only time you know it is only a mental health service call is after the scene is secure.

Far too often, and more complicated, are addiction-related issues and mental health-related issues, but none of those preclude the fact that a weapon is there or domestic violence has occurred.

When you continue to coordinate this stuff for cash-strapped departments across the country with decarceration, you will have real consequences.

For well over 25 years, victims’ rights groups have fought all across this country to get domestic violence offenders held for the weekend on misdemeanor charges, and there are reasons for that. You need them to sober up; you need everybody to cool off; and victims need the opportunity to get out of the house.

These bills do nothing to do any of those things. These bills will make communities more dangerous from one end of the country to the other.

This bill sounds really good. Cooperation, coordination, all of those words sound fantastic. I will be the first one championing mental health and addiction services to anybody in lieu of custody, in lieu of prison, in lieu of jail time, but I want to do it after the

scene is secure and we know there is no weapon onsite and nobody is in danger, when we know the victim is not in danger, the community is not in danger, and the person who is experiencing addiction, mental health, whatever crisis it is, is not in danger.

This bill doesn’t do that. This bill does the opposite of that. We should reject it and get back to work on the hard work of passing reasonable, real, strong criminal justice reform.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for constantly coming up with innovative approaches to the mental health and the opioid crises. I see this over and over again on her part.

Look, the bottom line is local governments need support for these types of specialized mental health response units that she has put together as part of this bill with grant funding. This isn’t going to happen unless the Federal Government provides this kind of funding and authorization for these programs. I know locally in New Jersey, it will not happen unless we do something and provide these types of grants.

It does disturb me that the Republicans keep trying to politicize this because I know that on our committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee—and most of the speakers on the other side are on our committee—we have worked hard to come together in a bipartisan way to try to come up with innovative approaches to the behavioral health crisis.

We did a bill that passed the House 404–20 just a few months ago that provides help for mental health and well-being that has ways of trying to deal with this crisis. I think that KATIE PORTER should be commended for coming up with another creative and innovative approach for trying to deal with this.

Every day, we know that the crisis is there, and we have to, at a Federal level, respond to it. This bill will go very far, in my opinion, toward responding to that crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support this bill on both sides of the aisle, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1377, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6899. An act to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from engaging in transactions involving the exchange of Special Drawing Rights issued by the International Monetary Fund that are held by the Russian Federation of Belarus.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 516) "An Act to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes."

□ 1400

#### INVEST TO PROTECT ACT OF 2022

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1377, I call up the bill (H.R. 6448) to direct the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice to carry out a grant program to provide assistance to police departments with fewer than 200 law enforcement officers, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1377, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-65 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 6448

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Invest to Protect Act of 2022".*

#### SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this Act:*

(1) DE-ESCALATION TRAINING.—*The term "de-escalation training" means training relating to taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to minimize the need for the use of force and increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance, including persuasion, warnings, creating space, use of physical barriers, slowing down the pace of an incident, and requesting additional resources.*

(2) DIRECTOR.—*The term "Director" means the Director of the Office.*

(3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—*The term "eligible local government" means—*

(A) a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general

government below the State level that employs fewer than 125 law enforcement officers; or

(B) a Tribal government that employs fewer than 125 law enforcement officers.

(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—*The term "law enforcement officer" has the meaning given the term "career law enforcement officer" in section 1709 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389).*

(5) OFFICE.—*The term "Office" means the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice.*

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—*There is established within the Office a grant program to—*

(1) provide training and access to mental health resources to local law enforcement officers; and

(2) improve the recruitment and retention of local law enforcement officers.

(c) AUTHORITY.—*Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall award grants to eligible local governments as a part of the grant program established under subsection (b).*

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) BARRIERS.—*The Attorney General shall determine what barriers exist to establishing a streamlined application process for grants under this section.*

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—*Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that includes a plan to execute a streamlined application process for grants under this section under which an eligible local government seeking a grant under this section can reasonably complete the application in not more than 2 hours.*

(B) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—*The plan required under subparagraph (A) may include a plan for—*

(i) proactively providing eligible local governments seeking a grant under this section with information on the data such eligible local governments will need to prepare before beginning the grant application; and

(ii) ensuring technical assistance is available for eligible local governments seeking a grant under this section before and during the grant application process, including through dedicated liaisons within the Office.

(3) APPLICATIONS.—*In selecting eligible local governments to receive grants under this section, the Director shall use the streamlined application process described in paragraph (2)(A).*

(4) PREFERENCE.—*The Attorney General may give preference to applicants who specify in their applications that grant amounts will be used for the eligible activities set forth in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (9), and (10) of subsection (e).*

(e) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—*An eligible local government that receives a grant under this section may use amounts from the grant only for—*

(1) de-escalation training for law enforcement officers;

(2) victim-centered training for law enforcement officers in handling situations of domestic violence;

(3) evidence-based law enforcement safety training for response to calls for service involving—

(A) persons with substance use disorders;

(B) persons with mental health needs;

(C) veterans;

(D) persons with disabilities;

(E) vulnerable youth;

(F) persons who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or trafficking; and

(G) persons experiencing homelessness or living in poverty;

(4) the offsetting of overtime costs associated with scheduling issues relating to the participation of a law enforcement officer in the training described in paragraphs (1) through (3), (9) and (10);

(5) a signing bonus for a law enforcement officer in an amount determined by the eligible local government;

(6) a retention bonus for a law enforcement officer—

(A) in an amount determined by the eligible local government that does not exceed 20 percent of the salary of the law enforcement officer; and

(B) who—

(i) has been employed at the law enforcement agency for not fewer than 5 years;

(ii) has not been found by an internal investigation to have engaged in serious misconduct; and

(iii) commits to remain with the law enforcement agency for a minimum 3 years from the time of receipt of the bonus;

(7) a stipend for the graduate education of law enforcement officers in the area of mental health, public health, or social work, which shall not exceed the lesser of—

(A) \$10,000; or

(B) the amount the law enforcement officer pays towards such graduate education;

(8) providing access to patient-centered behavioral health services for law enforcement officers, which may include resources for risk assessments, evidence-based, trauma-informed care to treat post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, peer support and counselor services and family supports, and the promotion of improved access to high quality mental health care through telehealth;

(9) implementation of evidence-based best practices and training on the use of lethal and nonlethal force;

(10) implementation of evidence-based best practices and training on the duty of care and the duty to intervene; and

(11) data collection for police practices regarding officer and community safety.

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*The Director shall establish reporting requirements for eligible local government that receive a grant under this section in order to assist with the evaluation by the Office of the program established under this section.*

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—*In establishing any requirements under paragraph (1), the Director shall consider the capacity of law enforcement agencies with fewer than 125 officers to collect and report information.*

(g) DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION BONUSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*Not later than 60 days after the date on which an eligible local government that receives a grant under this section awards a signing or retention bonus described in paragraph (5) or (6) of subsection (e), the eligible local government shall disclose to the Director and make publicly available on a website of the eligible local government the amount of such bonus.*

(2) REPORT.—*The Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report that includes each signing or retention bonus disclosed under paragraph (1) during the preceding year.*

(h) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—*All grants awarded by the Director under this section shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:*

(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

(A) DEFINITION.—*In this paragraph, the term "unresolved audit finding" means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.*

(B) AUDITS.—*Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants*