

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2491

To establish a grant program to improve school security, including by training and hiring veterans and former law enforcement officers as school safety officers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2023

Mr. FLEISCHMANN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a grant program to improve school security, including by training and hiring veterans and former law enforcement officers as school safety officers, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Aid For
5 Every School Act” or the “SAFE School Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING SCHOOL SECURITY.**

7 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
2 school”, “local educational agency”, and “secondary
3 school” have the meanings given the terms in section
4 8001 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

6 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
7 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
8 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Attorney
10 General shall establish within the Office of Justice Pro-
11 grams a grant program under which the Attorney General
12 shall make grants to States and local educational agencies
13 to carry out eligible activities described in subsection (c).

14 (c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—The eligible activities de-
15 scribed in this subsection are the following:

16 (1) Establish, if necessary, and implement a
17 State certification or licensure program, or other
18 training program required by the State, that—

19 (A) is designed to train individuals who are
20 veterans or former law enforcement officers to
21 serve as school safety officers; and

22 (B) may include firearm or de-escalation
23 training.

24 (2) Hire veterans or former law enforcement of-
25 ficers who have completed the State certification or

1 licensure program described in paragraph (1), or off-
2 duty law enforcement officers, to serve as school
3 safety officers in elementary schools and secondary
4 schools in the State.

5 (3) Improve the security of elementary schools
6 and secondary schools in the State by installing in-
7 frastructure and implementing technology and other
8 measures that strengthen security on school prem-
9 ises, including—

10 (A) controlling access to school facilities
11 through the installation of metal detectors, x-
12 ray machines, fencing or gating, and surveil-
13 lance cameras or systems;

14 (B) securing doors through the installation
15 of external door passcodes, internal door locks,
16 peepholes for classroom doors, bulletproof glass
17 or ballistic film, automatic door locking mecha-
18 nisms, and access control doors; and

19 (C) enhancing emergency responsiveness
20 through the installation of increased lighting on
21 school grounds, emergency call boxes, emer-
22 gency alerts, and emergency generators.

23 (d) NO FEDERAL INTERFERENCE.—In awarding
24 grants pursuant to subsection (b), Attorney General may
25 not—

1 (1) prevent or discourage any State or local
2 educational agency from using any grant funds for
3 a school security activity described in subsection (b);

4 (2) impose any requirements relating to the
5 content or structure of the State certification, licen-
6 sure, or other training program described in sub-
7 section (c)(1); or

8 (3) enforce any requirement relating to grant
9 funds that would prevent a State or local edu-
10 cational agency from carrying out an eligible activity
11 described in subsection (c).

12 (e) NONDISCRIMINATION.—The Attorney General
13 shall award grants pursuant to subsection (b) without re-
14 spect to whether a recipient or subrecipient—

15 (1) is a public or private school;

16 (2) is religiously affiliated; or

17 (3) receives any Federal or State funding for
18 school resource officers.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$900,000,000.

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