

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 538

To provide assistance to local educational agencies for the prevention and reduction of violent crime in elementary and secondary schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 1993

Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RIDGE, Ms. MOLINARI, and Mr. PASTOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To provide assistance to local educational agencies for the prevention and reduction of violent crime in elementary and secondary schools.

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 “Classroom Safety Act
5 of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

1 (1) the violence within elementary and second-
2 ary schools across the Nation has increased dramati-
3 cally during the past decade;

4 (2) the despair, brought about by poverty and
5 disenfranchisement, that affect millions of youth in
6 cities across the Nation is entering schools;

7 (3) almost 3,000,000 crimes occur on or near
8 school campuses every year, 16,000 per school day
9 or one every 6 seconds;

10 (4) one fourth of major urban school districts
11 now use metal detectors;

12 (5) 20 percent of teachers in schools have re-
13 ported being threatened with violence by a student;

14 (6) greater efforts are needed for counseling
15 and training for teachers in potentially hostile school
16 environments to avert violence in schools;

17 (7) schools are being asked to take on too many
18 responsibilities that society as a whole has neglected
19 forcing teachers to referee fights rather than teach;

20 (8) teachers' unions are staging walk-outs to
21 protest the violence which denies interested students
22 the opportunity to learn;

23 (9) local educational agencies and cities are al-
24 ready financially devastated and need an infusion of
25 Federal funds to help fight violence in schools; and

1 (10) local educational agencies should not have
2 to withdraw funds and resources intended for books,
3 computers, and teachers, to help pay for an in-
4 creased need for safety mechanisms in schools.

5 (b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
6 assistance to local educational agencies for the prevention
7 and reduction of violent crime in schools throughout the
8 Nation.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANT AUTHORIZATION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education is au-
11 thorized to make grants to local educational agencies to
12 provide assistance to such agencies most directly affected
13 by crime and violence.

14 (b) MODEL PROJECT.—The Secretary shall develop
15 a model for classroom safety written in English and Span-
16 ish in a timely fashion and make such model available to
17 any local educational agency that requests such informa-
18 tion.

19 **SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS.**

20 Grants made by the Secretary under this Act shall
21 be used—

22 (1) to fund anticrime and safety measures and
23 to develop education and training programs for the
24 prevention of crime, violence, and illegal use of
25 drugs and alcohol;

1 (2) for counseling programs for victims and wit-
2 nesses of crime in schools;

3 (3) to develop programs for conflict resolution
4 and peer mediation counseling for students, teach-
5 ers, and other personnel in regular contact with stu-
6 dents at school;

7 (4) to purchase crime prevention equipment, in-
8 cluding metal detectors and video-surveillance de-
9 vices; and

10 (5) for the prevention and reduction of the par-
11 ticipation of students in organized crime and drug
12 and gang-related activities in schools.

13 **SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to be eligible to receive
15 a grant under this Act for any fiscal year, a local edu-
16 cational agency shall submit an application to the Sec-
17 retary in such form and containing such information as
18 the Secretary may reasonably require.

19 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Each application under sub-
20 section (a) shall include—

21 (1) a request for funds for the purposes de-
22 scribed in section 4;

23 (2) a description of the schools and commu-
24 nities to be served by the grant, including the nature

1 of the crime and violence problems within such
2 schools;

3 (3) assurances that Federal funds received
4 under this Act shall be used to supplement, not sup-
5 plant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be
6 available for activities funded under this Act; and

7 (4) statistical information in such form and
8 containing such information that the Secretary may
9 require regarding crime within the schools served by
10 such local educational agency.

11 (c) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—Each application shall
12 include a comprehensive plan that shall contain—

13 (1) a description of the crime problems within
14 the schools targeted for assistance;

15 (2) a description of the projects to be devel-
16 oped;

17 (3) a description of the resources available in
18 the community to implement the plan together with
19 a description of the gaps in the plan that cannot be
20 filled with existing resources;

21 (4) an explanation of how the requested grant
22 will be used to fill gaps;

23 (5) a description of the system the applicant
24 will establish to prevent and reduce crime problems;
25 and

1 (6) a description of educational materials to be
2 developed in Spanish.

3 **SEC. 6. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS; LIMITATIONS ON GRANTS.**

4 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITATION.—The Sec-
5 retary shall use not more than 5 percent of the funds
6 available under this Act for the purposes of administration
7 and technical assistance.

8 (b) RENEWAL OF GRANTS.—A grant under this Act
9 may be renewed for up to 2 additional years after the first
10 fiscal year during which the recipient receives an initial
11 grant under this Act, subject to the availability of funds,
12 if—

13 (1) the Secretary determines that the funds
14 made available to the recipient during the previous
15 year were used in a manner required under the ap-
16 proved application; and

17 (2) the Secretary determines that an additional
18 grant is necessary to implement the crime prevention
19 program described in the comprehensive plan as re-
20 quired by section 5(c).

21 **SEC. 7. AWARD OF GRANTS.**

22 (a) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary
23 shall consider the following factors in awarding grants to
24 local educational agencies:

1 (1) CRIME PROBLEM.—The nature and scope of
2 the crime problem in the targeted schools.

3 (2) NEED AND ABILITY.—Demonstrated need
4 and evidence of the ability to provide the services de-
5 scribed in the plan required under section 5(c).

6 (3) POPULATION.—The number of students to
7 be served by the plan required under section 5(c).

8 (b) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
9 shall attempt, to the extent practicable, to achieve an equi-
10 table geographic distribution of grant awards.

11 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

12 (a) REPORT.—Local educational agencies that receive
13 funds under this Act shall submit to the Secretary a report
14 not later than March 1 of each year that describes
15 progress achieved in carrying out the plan required under
16 section 5(c).

17 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
18 submit to the Congress a report by October 1 of each year
19 in which grants are made available under this Act which
20 shall contain a detailed statement regarding grant awards,
21 activities of grant recipients, a compilation of statistical
22 information submitted by applicants under 5(b)(4), and
23 an evaluation of programs established under this Act.

24 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

25 For the purpose of this Act:

1 (1) The term 'local educational agency' has the
2 same meaning given such term under section
3 1471(12) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965.

5 (2) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary
6 of Education.

7 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated
9 \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 1993 and such sums as may
10 be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1994 through
11 1999 to carry out the projects under this Act.

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