

End the Cycle of Violence Act

According to the FBI, the overall violent crime rate in the United States rose by 4.1% in 2016. Homicides alone rose 8.6%, totaling nearly 17,250 victims.

In turn, violent crime has cost the American taxpayer more than \$42 billion in direct costs – including the costs to employ police, run courts and correctional institutions, and pay for the out-of-pocket medical expenses borne by victims.

What the Bill Does

This bill creates a federal grant program to help states establish or expand violence intervention or prevention programs. Violence intervention or prevention programs provide services for victims of violent crime while they are recovering from their injuries. These services give survivors tools to make lifestyle changes that can prevent them from being re-victimized or reduce their likelihood of being involved in future violence. For example, at the University of Maryland Medical System, Violence Intervention Program participants showed an 83 percent decrease in re-hospitalization due to intentional violent injury, a 75 percent reduction in criminal activity, and an 82 percent increase in employment.

These federal dollars would establish or expand operations, study the effectiveness of operations, and examine impacts on re-incarceration and hospital re-admittance rates. The Secretary would award grants at a level of \$250,000 to \$500,000 per grantee, over a three-year period.

Upon the conclusion of this grant pilot program, each organization would be required to report their findings back to the HHS Secretary, who would then be responsible for providing legislative recommendations to Congress.

Why it is Necessary

Violence and criminal activity remains a major threat to public health, disproportionately affecting racial minorities. Violence prevention programs began as a way for hospitals to reduce the number of readmitted, repeat victims of traumatic violent injury.

Violence intervention and prevention programs have been shown to reduce both violent crime, recidivism, jail time, and re-admittance to hospitals.

Comprehensive programs that take a holistic approach to rehabilitation offer some of the most efficient and effective solutions. These programs can also serve as an incubator for new ideas that help victims and communities succeed. Providing exposure for these operations, as well as inter-organizational collaboration and sharing of best practices, is invaluable. This bill will accomplish these goals.

Endorsements

Fraternal Order of Police, American College of Surgeons, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Association of School Resource Officers, National League of Cities, National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs, National District Attorneys Association, Cure Violence