

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 198

To authorize grants for States, and units of local government that take efforts to stop enabling repeat violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2025

Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. LaLOTA, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. LANGWORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize grants for States, and units of local government that take efforts to stop enabling repeat violence, 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 “Stop Enabling Repeat
5 Violence and Endangering Our Communities Act” or the
6 “SERVE Our Communities Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Attorney General, acting
9 through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance,

1 is authorized to make grants to eligible States and units
2 of local government for the purposes described in sub-
3 section (c).

4 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for a grant
5 under this section, a State or unit of local government—

6 (1) shall allow a State court or magistrate to
7 consider the danger an individual poses to the com-
8 munity when determining bail or pretrial release
9 conditions; and

10 (2) shall have taken steps during the previous
11 calendar year to prevent repeat offenses by violent
12 offenders, including—

13 (A) enacting a law that allows a State
14 court or magistrate to consider the danger an
15 individual poses to the community when deter-
16 mining bail or pretrial release conditions;

17 (B) expanding efforts of that jurisdiction
18 to hire and retain law enforcement officers and
19 prosecutorial staff; or

20 (C) administering a public education pro-
21 gram to combat anti-police sentiment and im-
22 prove community-police relations.

23 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or unit of local govern-
24 ment that receives a grant under this section may use such

1 funds for the purposes described in section 211(b) of the
2 Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60531(b)).

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fis-
5 cal years 2026 through 2031 to carry out this section.

6 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “State”
7 and “unit of local government” have the meanings given
8 such terms in section 901 of the Omnibus Crime Control
9 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

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