

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2739

To divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma-informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. OMAR, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASAR, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. TLAIB) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and 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 divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma-informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Counseling Not Crim-
3 inalization in Schools Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Over the last 50 years, our Nation’s schools
7 have become sites for increased criminalization and
8 surveillance of young people, particularly Black, Na-
9 tive American, and Latino students, immigrant stu-
10 dents, students with disabilities, LGBTQI+ stu-
11 dents, students experiencing homelessness, students
12 involved in the foster care system, and other histori-
13 cally marginalized students.

14 (2) Despite significant decreases in the rate of
15 serious crimes and violence on school campuses over
16 the past 20 years, improving upon already low rates,
17 55 percent of high school students, 38 percent of
18 middle school students, and 18 percent of elemen-
19 tary school students attended a school with a police
20 officer during the 2017–2018 school year.

21 (3) Since 1999, the Federal Government has in-
22 vested more than \$1,000,000,000 to subsidize the
23 placement of police in schools, resulting in more
24 than 50,000 law enforcement officers patrolling the
25 halls of elementary and secondary public schools
26 across the Nation.

1 (4) A growing body of research has not found
2 any evidence that police stationed on school cam-
3 puses make schools safer, and the presence of police
4 has been shown to increase the likelihood that chil-
5 dren will be arrested.

6 (5) Research has shown that schools with a des-
7 ignated law enforcement officer on duty arrested
8 students at 5 times the rate of comparable schools
9 without such an officer.

10 (6) When police are present in schools, students
11 of color face an increased risk of being assaulted by
12 police. Student-recorded videos of police violence in
13 schools regularly circulate through news channels,
14 articles, and social media, exposing violence per-
15 petrated by police within schoolhouse gates. Between
16 2011 and 2021, news reports detailed at least 285
17 police assaults of students.

18 (7) Black, Native American, and Latino stu-
19 dents are more likely than their White peers to at-
20 tend schools with police officers on campus and are
21 more likely to be referred to law enforcement or ar-
22 rested while in school.

23 (8) Black students represent 31 percent of all
24 school-related arrests, despite making up only 15
25 percent of all public school students. Native Amer-

1 ican and Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian stu-
2 dents are more than twice as likely to be arrested as
3 White students.

4 (9) Students with disabilities are more likely
5 than their peers without disabilities to be referred to
6 law enforcement or arrested. Students of color with
7 disabilities are more likely to be referred to law en-
8 forcement than either their White peers with disabil-
9 ities, or their peers of color without disabilities.

10 (10) Students with disabilities are also dis-
11 proportionately restrained and secluded in schools.
12 Of the 74,813 students who were physically or me-
13 chanically restrained during the 2017–2018 school
14 year, 78 percent received special education services.
15 Of the 27,499 students who were secluded during
16 the 2017–2018 school year, 77 percent received spe-
17 cial education services. According to a 2020 Govern-
18 ment Accountability Office report, 70 percent of
19 school districts report zero incidents of restraint and
20 seclusion, but only 30 of the Nation’s 17,000 school
21 districts are required to verify the number of inci-
22 dents of restraint and seclusion, likely resulting in a
23 significant undercount of these harmful practices.

24 (11) According to the Department of Edu-
25 cation, while Black girls comprise only 16 percent of

1 girls in elementary and secondary schools, they make
2 up 42 percent of girls receiving the most severe
3 forms of school discipline and severe punishment,
4 such as corporal punishment, and represent 34 per-
5 cent of girls arrested on campus. In the 2017–2018
6 school year, Black girls were 4 times more likely
7 than White girls to be suspended or expelled. Black
8 girls were also 3 times more likely to be referred to
9 law enforcement and over 3 times more likely to be
10 arrested in school.

11 (12) Research shows that these racial dispari-
12 ties in discipline rates are not a result of differences
13 in student behavior, but instead reflect the ways in
14 which students of color face more punitive discipline
15 than their White peers for similar behavior.

16 (13) Students who are LGBTQI+ often have
17 intersecting marginalized identities and experience
18 exclusionary discipline at disproportionate rates that
19 make it more likely they will interact with the juve-
20 nile justice system than their non-LGBTQI+ peers.
21 A survey of juvenile justice facilities found 40 per-
22 cent of girls and 20 percent of all detained youth
23 identified as LGBTQI+, and the overwhelming ma-
24 jority (85 percent) of LGBTQI+ detained youth
25 were youth of color.

1 (14) Students who are suspended or expelled
2 are nearly 3 times more likely to be in contact with
3 the juvenile justice system the following year.

4 (15) According to the Federal Bureau of Inves-
5 tigation, more than 30,000 children under the age of
6 10 were arrested since 2013. On school campuses,
7 more than 290,000 students were referred to law en-
8 forcement. The United States spends \$240 daily, on
9 average, per youth detained in juvenile facilities.

10 (16) While schools should be sanctuaries for all
11 students, reports have shown instances where police
12 in schools collect tips and disciplinary information
13 from teachers and school administrators and share
14 it with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
15 agents to build deportation cases against students
16 and their families.

17 (17) School hardening, including the presence
18 of law enforcement officers on campus, causes stu-
19 dents to experience higher levels of fear, perpetuates
20 the school to prison pipeline, and undermines the
21 ability of schools and educators to build learning en-
22 vironments based on mutual trust, respect, and safe-
23 ty.

24 (18) Ninety percent of students are in public
25 schools where the number of counselors, social work-

1 ers, nurses, and psychologists do not meet rec-
2 ommended professional standards. Professional
3 standards recommend at least 1 counselor and 1 so-
4 cial worker for every 250 students and at least 1
5 nurse and 1 psychologist for every 750 students and
6 every 700 students, respectively.

7 (19) 1,700,000 students attend schools with po-
8 lice but not 1 counselor.

9 (20) 3,000,000 students attend schools with po-
10 lice but not 1 school nurse.

11 (21) 6,000,000 students attend schools with po-
12 lice but not 1 school psychologist.

13 (22) 10,000,000 students attend schools with
14 police but not 1 social worker.

15 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

16 It is the purpose of this Act to—

17 (1) address the needs of marginalized students,
18 ensure schools are welcoming for students, and im-
19 prove academic outcomes by eliminating Federal
20 funding for maintaining the presence of covered law
21 enforcement officers in schools and establishing a
22 continuum of care and positive schoolwide systems
23 of services that are evidence-based, inclusive, racially
24 and gender responsive, and trauma informed; and

1 (2) support local educational agencies that
2 choose to terminate their contracts with local law en-
3 forcement agencies or, where applicable, dissolve or
4 disband district-based police departments, and invest
5 resources in personnel and services that create safe
6 and inclusive schools for all students based on com-
7 munity engagement and deliberative consultation.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) **ESEA TERMS.**—The terms “elementary
11 school”, “evidence-based”, “local educational agen-
12 cy”, “parent”, “professional development”, “school
13 leader”, “secondary school”, “Secretary”, and “spe-
14 cialized instructional support personnel” have the
15 meaning given those terms in section 8101 of the
16 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

18 (2) **COVERED PROGRAM.**—The term “covered
19 program” means—

20 (A) all the operations of an elementary
21 school, a secondary school, or a local edu-
22 cational agency; or

23 (B) a program that serves children who re-
24 ceive services for which financial assistance is

1 provided in accordance with the Head Start Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

3 (3) CREDIBLE MESSENGER.—The term “cred-
4 ible messenger” means any individual who serves as
5 a mentor, is from the same communities in which
6 the students and families they serve live, and whose
7 lived experiences serve as a credential in their work
8 to provide guidance, empowerment, support, and en-
9 couragement to students and their families with
10 whom the credible messenger has shared or similar
11 experiences. Shared experiences include being a per-
12 son of color, being directly impacted or having in-
13 volvement in the legal system, having involvement in
14 the child welfare system, being directly impacted by
15 exclusionary school discipline and policing in schools,
16 having experienced housing instability, having a dis-
17 ability, or identifying as LGBTQI+.

18 (4) POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS
19 AND SUPPORTS.—The term “positive behavioral
20 interventions and supports” means—

21 (A) a schoolwide, systematic approach that
22 embeds evidence-based practices and data-driv-
23 en decision making to improve school climate
24 and culture in order to achieve improved aca-
25 demic and social outcomes and increase learn-

ing for all students (including students with the most complex and intensive behavioral needs); and

(B) encompasses a range of systemic and individualized positive strategies to teach and reinforce school-expected behaviors, while discouraging and diminishing undesirable behaviors.

(5) COVERED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—

The term “covered law enforcement officer”—

(A) means any person who—

(i) is a State, Tribal, or local law enforcement officer (as defined in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284)); and

(ii) is assigned by the employing law enforcement agency to a covered program, who is contracting with a covered program, or who is employed by a covered program; and

(B) includes an individual referred to as a “school resource officer” if that individual meets the definition in subparagraph (A).

1 (6) TRAUMA-INFORMED SERVICES.—The term
2 “trauma-informed services” means a service delivery
3 approach that—

4 (A) recognizes and responds to the impacts
5 of trauma with evidence-based supports and
6 intervention;

7 (B) emphasizes physical, psychological, and
8 emotional safety for both providers of services
9 and survivors of trauma; and

10 (C) creates opportunities for survivors of
11 trauma to rebuild a sense of healing and em-
12 powerment.

13 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR POLICE IN**
14 **SCHOOLS.**

15 (a) FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITION.—Notwith-
16 standing the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act
17 of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), including subpart 1
18 of part E of title I of that Act (34 U.S.C. 10151 et seq.)
19 (relating to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assist-
20 ance Grant Program) and part Q of title I of that Act
21 (34 U.S.C. 13081 et seq.) (relating to the “Cops on the
22 Beat” grant program), or any other provision of law, no
23 Federal funds may be appropriated or used for hiring,
24 maintaining, or training covered law enforcement officers
25 in any capacity.

1 (b) COPS GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 1701 of title
 2 I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
 3 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) by striking paragraph (12);

6 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (13)
 7 through (23) as paragraphs (12) through (22),
 8 respectively; and

9 (C) in paragraph (21), as so redesignated,
 10 by striking “through (21)” and inserting
 11 “through (20)”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(n) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR COVERED
 14 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—A recipient of a grant
 15 under this part may not use the grant funds for covered
 16 law enforcement officers (as defined in section 4 of the
 17 Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act).”.

18 **SEC. 6. SUPPORTING LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES IN**
 19 **TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM POLICE IN**
 20 **SCHOOLS.**

21 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
 22 of Education shall award grants, on a competitive and roll-
 23 ing basis, to local educational agencies to enable those
 24 local educational agencies—

1 (1) to replace covered law enforcement officers
2 in elementary and secondary schools with personnel
3 and services that support mental health and trauma-
4 informed services; and

5 (2) to reform school safety and disciplinary
6 policies so they reflect evidence-based practices that
7 do not rely on the criminal justice system and pro-
8 vide the necessary staff training and support to im-
9 plement such policies.

10 (b) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency desir-
11 ing a grant under this section shall submit an application
12 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
13 taining such information as the Secretary may require, in-
14 cluding an assurance that—

15 (1) the local educational agency will not have
16 covered law enforcement officers stationed on school
17 campuses, including by terminating any existing con-
18 tract with local law enforcement or, where applica-
19 ble, dissolving school district-based police depart-
20 ments, at least 30 days prior to the entity receiving
21 funds under this section; and

22 (2) the local educational agency will not estab-
23 lish any new contract with law enforcement or create
24 its own school police department for the duration of
25 the grant.

1 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
2 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to—

3 (1) local educational agencies that terminated
4 their contract with local law enforcement or dis-
5 solved their school district-based police department
6 prior to submitting an application and provide assur-
7 ances that the local educational agency will not cre-
8 ate or restart a contract with State or local law en-
9 forcement, create or reinstate a school district police
10 department, or create or restart a program of other
11 law enforcement or armed school personnel during
12 the duration of the grant;

13 (2) local educational agencies with a larger
14 share of students who are economically disadvan-
15 taged, in the event that funds are insufficient to
16 award grants to all eligible applicants; and

17 (3) local educational agencies that—

18 (A) identify the uses of funds in subsection

19 (d) based on meaningful community engage-
20 ment; and

21 (B) establish ongoing stakeholder over-
22 sight, guidance, and coordination of the pro-
23 posed activities or policies with a broad group
24 of stakeholders, including any groups of stu-
25 dents, as well as their families, who have been

1 disproportionately arrested, suspended, or ex-
2 pelled, to ensure proposed activities and policies
3 mitigate disparities in the use of exclusionary
4 discipline and promote a positive school culture.

5 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—

6 (1) REQUIRED USE.—A local educational agen-
7 cy receiving funds under this section shall use such
8 grant funds to hire, maintain, or train school coun-
9 selors, school psychologists, nurses, social workers,
10 credible messengers, community health workers and
11 trauma-informed personnel, dedicated staff specifi-
12 cally trained in de-escalation and violence interrup-
13 tion practices, staff trained in anti-bias practices,
14 doctoral level specialists in behavior planning and
15 intervention, or other specialists or individuals with
16 expertise in school climate and behavior.

17 (2) PERMITTED USES.—In addition to the re-
18 quired use described in paragraph (1), a local edu-
19 cational agency receiving funds under this section
20 may also use grant funds to carry out 1 or more of
21 the following:

22 (A) Implementing schoolwide positive be-
23 havioral interventions and supports, restorative
24 justice programs and interventions, mediators,

1 social and emotional learning programs, or
2 other evidence-based trauma-informed services.

3 (B) Providing ongoing professional devel-
4 opment to teachers, teacher assistants, school
5 leaders, counselors, specialized instructional
6 support personnel, credible messengers, and
7 mental health professionals that—

8 (i) fosters safe, inclusive, and stable
9 learning environments that support the so-
10 cial, emotional, mental, and academic well-
11 being of students and prevent and mitigate
12 the effects of trauma, including through
13 social and emotional learning;

14 (ii) improves school capacity to iden-
15 tify, refer, and provide services to students
16 in need of trauma support services;

17 (iii) reflects the best practices for
18 trauma-informed identification, referral,
19 and support developed by the Interagency
20 Task Force on Trauma-Informed Care;

21 (iv) reduces the number of students
22 with disabilities experiencing school dis-
23 cipline for their disability-related behavior
24 through specific training on the identifica-

1 tion, development, and implementation of
2 Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs); and
3 (v) reduces the number of Black,
4 Latino, Native American, and LGBTQI+
5 students who are subjected to punitive dis-
6 cipline practices rather than trauma-in-
7 formed services and supports.

8 (e) PROHIBITION.—No portion of any grant funds
9 awarded under this section may be used for—

10 (1) the development, establishment, implemen-
11 tation, or enforcement of punitive school discipline
12 policies, including the commission, contracting of, or
13 agreements with, law enforcement that support the
14 presence of police in schools, including formal or in-
15 formal partnerships or data and information sharing
16 agreements with the Department of Justice or Sec-
17 retary of Homeland Security, including U. S. Immi-
18 gration and Customs Enforcement or U. S. Customs
19 and Border Protection;

20 (2) the purchase, maintenance, or installation
21 of surveillance equipment or programs, including
22 metal detectors, surveillance cameras, facial recogni-
23 tion technology, or software programs that monitor
24 or mine the social media use or technology use of
25 students; or

1 (3) arming teachers, principals, school leaders,
2 or other school personnel.

3 (f) GRANT AMOUNTS.—The amount of grant funds
4 received under this section by a local educational agency
5 shall be based on the number of students enrolled in the
6 local educational agency.

7 (g) REPORTING.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agen-
9 cy receiving a grant under this section shall prepare
10 and submit an annual report to the Secretary con-
11 taining the information described in paragraph (2).
12 Such report shall be made publicly available.

13 (2) CONTENTS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the
14 report described in paragraph (1) shall include infor-
15 mation about—

16 (A) how the grant funds were used;

17 (B) the number and percentage of students
18 who were arrested by or referred to law enforce-
19 ment officers in the previous year compared to
20 the number and percentage arrested or referred
21 during the term of the grant;

22 (C) in the aggregate, the reasons for those
23 arrests;

24 (D) demographic data of students arrested
25 or referred to law enforcement officers,

1 disaggregated and cross-tabulated by race, eth-
2 nicity, age, gender, status as a child with a dis-
3 ability, and whether the student is eligible for
4 a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard
5 B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
6 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

7 (E) the number of metal detectors and
8 surveillance cameras used by each school served
9 by the local educational agency, as well as poli-
10 cies governing the use of these devices;

11 (F) whether facial recognition technology
12 is used by the local educational agency, and if
13 so, the policies governing the use of such tech-
14 nology; and

15 (G) whether software programs that mon-
16 itor or mine the social media use or technology
17 use of students or the families of students are
18 used by, or at the direction of, the local edu-
19 cational agency, and if so, the contract with the
20 provider of those software programs as well as
21 the policies governing the use of such programs.

22 (3) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMA-
23 TION.—Collection or disaggregation of information
24 shall not be required under subparagraphs (B)
25 through (D) of paragraph (2) to the extent that

1 such collection or disaggregation would reveal per-
2 sonally identifiable information about an individual
3 student or otherwise violate privacy laws.

4 (h) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—A local edu-
5 cational agency shall use Federal funds received under this
6 section only to supplement the funds that would, in the
7 absence of such Federal funds, be made available from
8 State and local sources for the activities described in sub-
9 section (d), and not to supplant such funds

10 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$5,000,000,000.

○