

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 83

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to require the Attorney General to establish guidelines to prevent and address occurrences of bullying, to provide for grant funding to States for programs to prevent and address occurrences of bullying, and to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

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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 “Bullying Prevention
5 and Intervention Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PRO-**
2 **GRAMS; REAUTHORIZATION OF JUVENILE AC-**
3 **COUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANTS.**

4 (a) ALLOWING JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK
5 GRANTS TO BE USED FOR BULLYING PREVENTION AND
6 INTERVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section 1801 of the Omni-
7 bus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding
10 paragraph (1), by inserting “(and for the purpose
11 described in subsection (d)(1))” after “juvenile jus-
12 tice system”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(d) BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
16 PROGRAMS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts paid to a State or
18 a unit of local government under this part may be
19 used by the State or unit of local government for
20 bullying prevention and intervention programs de-
21 scribed in paragraph (2)(C) that, subject to para-
22 graph (3), follow the guidelines established under
23 such paragraph (2)(C).

24 “(2) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 6 months
25 after the date of this subsection, the Attorney Gen-

1 eral shall establish voluntary guidelines for use by
2 States and units of local government—

3 “(A) on ways for relevant entities to iden-
4 tify occurrences of bullying;

5 “(B) on ways to provide for the participa-
6 tion in programs described in subparagraph (C)
7 of juveniles who are involved in such occur-
8 rences of bullying; and

9 “(C) for purposes of developing bullying
10 prevention and intervention programs that, at a
11 minimum—

12 “(i) provide services to juveniles;

13 “(ii) provide educational services that
14 focus on the accountability of such juve-
15 niles for their actions, with respect to oc-
16 currences of bullying, including when the
17 outcome of such actions is not intended by
18 such juveniles;

19 “(iii) provide counseling services for
20 both juveniles who commit acts of bullying
21 and juveniles who are victims of such bul-
22 lying;

23 “(iv) include notification and involve-
24 ment of parents and guardians of juveniles
25 who are participating in such programs;

1 “(v) address behavior and behavior
2 modification of juveniles described in
3 clause (iii); and

4 “(vi) educate students, adult per-
5 sonnel (including school administration
6 and staff and child care providers), and
7 law enforcement officers about how to
8 identify occurrences of bullying and how to
9 address such occurrences.

10 “(3) VARIATION PERMITTED.—A State or unit
11 of local government may modify the guidelines estab-
12 lished under paragraph (2) for use by such State or
13 unit, respectively (or entities within such State or
14 unit, respectively) in order to meet the specific needs
15 or circumstances of relevant populations.

16 “(4) BULLYING DEFINED.—For purposes of
17 this subsection, the term ‘bullying’ includes the fol-
18 lowing behavior by juvenile against another juvenile
19 (or group of juveniles):

20 “(A) Verbal acts, name-calling, and graph-
21 ic and written statements that may be threat-
22 ening, harmful, or humiliating and which may
23 include use of cell phones, the Internet, and
24 other forms of electronic communication.

1 “(B) Conduct that may be physically
2 threatening, harmful, or humiliating.

3 “(C) Conduct that creates a hostile envi-
4 ronment when the conduct is sufficiently severe,
5 pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with
6 or limit the ability of such other juvenile to par-
7 ticipate in or benefit from the services, activi-
8 ties, or opportunities offered by a school.

9 “(D) Harassment based on race, color, na-
10 tional origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation,
11 or gender.

12 “(E) Statements or other conduct that are
13 based on real or perceived imbalance of power,
14 repeated over time, and result in humiliation of
15 the other juvenile.

16 Behavior described in the previous sentence does not
17 have to include the intent to harm or be directed at
18 a specific juvenile to be considered bullying.”.

19 (b) REAUTHORIZATION OF JUVENILE ACCOUNT-
20 ABILITY BLOCK GRANTS.—Section 1810(a) of such Act
21 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the
22 following: “and for each of fiscal years 2012 through
23 2016”.

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