

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4462

To establish a pilot program within the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice relating to advocacy for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2022

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a pilot program within the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice relating to advocacy for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims, 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 “Reaching Every Sur-
5 vivor with Police and On-site Nonprofit Services Evalua-
6 tions Act of 2022” or the “RESPONSE Act of 2022”.

7 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) DATING VIOLENCE; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;
2 VICTIM ADVOCATE.—The terms “dating violence”,
3 “domestic violence”, and “victim advocate” have the
4 meaning given those term in section 40002 of the
5 Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C.
6 12291).

7 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
8 the Director of the Office on Violence Against
9 Women of the Department of Justice.

10 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
11 ty” means a community-based organization or a vic-
12 tim service provider (as defined in section 40002 of
13 the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C.
14 12291)) that—

15 (A) has demonstrated capacity to assist
16 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dat-
17 ing violence, or stalking in crisis through a vic-
18 tim advocate program;

19 (B) is prepared to provide victim-centered,
20 culturally relevant, and trauma-informed serv-
21 ices to victims of domestic violence, sexual as-
22 sault, dating violence, or stalking;

23 (C) has a cooperative agreement or memo-
24 randum of understanding in effect with a local
25 law enforcement agency that indicates a part-

nership in responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking; and

(D) operates a transitional shelter for domestic or sexual assault victims or has a cooperative agreement with a local transitional shelter that can house victims assisted by a victim advocate of the eligible entity on the crime scene of a domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking call if necessary.

(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term “law enforcement agency” has the meaning given the term “law enforcement” in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291).

(5) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “law enforcement officer” means an agent of a law enforcement agency with responsibilities to provide public safety.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a pilot program under which the Director awards competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of working collaboratively with local law enforcement agencies to dispatch victim advocates to domestic vi-

1 olence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking
2 crime scenes in accordance with paragraph (2).

3 (2) CRIME SCENE ADVOCACY.—With respect to
4 a crime scene to which a victim advocate is dis-
5 patched under paragraph (1)—

6 (A) the victim advocate shall arrive at the
7 crime scene—

8 (i) after the crime scene is secured by
9 a law enforcement officer;

10 (ii) when an arrest is made; or

11 (iii) when there is probable cause to
12 make an arrest, but the perpetrator of the
13 crime has fled; and

14 (B) a law enforcement officer shall remain
15 at the crime scene while the victim advocate
16 meets with a victim.

17 (3) VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY.—A victim of do-
18 mestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or
19 stalking who receives advice, counseling, or assist-
20 ance from a victim advocate under this subsection
21 shall have the privilege to refuse to disclose, and to
22 prevent any other person from disclosing, confiden-
23 tial communications.

1 (4) MINIMUM NUMBER OF AWARDS.—The Di-
2 rector shall award not fewer than 3 grants under
3 this subsection.

4 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a
5 grant under subsection (b) shall submit to the Director
6 an application at such at such time, in such manner, and
7 containing or accompanied by such information as the Di-
8 rector may reasonably require.

9 (d) DURATION; STAGES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program estab-
11 lished under subsection (b) shall terminate on the
12 date that is 3 years after the date on which the Di-
13 rector notifies the first eligible entity that eligible
14 entity is receiving a grant under the pilot program.

15 (2) 2ND AND FINAL YEARS.—During the 2-year
16 period beginning on the date on which the Director
17 awards a grant under this section, the Director shall
18 continue to implement the pilot program established
19 under subsection (b).

20 (e) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The head of the
21 eligible entity shall—

22 (1) hire additional staff—

23 (A) to dispatch victim advocates to crime
24 scenes in accordance with subsection (b)(2); or

1 (B) if a crime scene is not accessible to a
2 victim advocate in accordance with subsection
3 (b)(2)(A), to work with the victim of a crime at
4 another location;

5 (2) develop policies for collaborating with law
6 enforcement agencies on dispatching victim advo-
7 cates to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating vio-
8 lence, or stalking crime scenes;

9 (3) train the staff and volunteers of the eligible
10 entity and each law enforcement agency with which
11 the eligible entity has a partnership on the policies
12 developed under paragraph (2); and

13 (4) begin implementing the pilot program estab-
14 lished under subsection (b).

15 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
16 a grant under subsection (b) shall use a portion of the
17 grant to—

18 (1) acquire or update dispatch software, as nec-
19 essary; and

20 (2) acquire language interpretation services
21 that allow victim advocates to communicate with in-
22 dividuals with limited English proficiency.

23 (g) REPORT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall

1 make public a report that includes data collection
2 and analysis relating to domestic violence, sexual as-
3 sault, dating violence, or stalking calls in which vic-
4 tim advocates of the eligible entity were involved
5 during the pilot program established under this sec-
6 tion.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under
8 paragraph (1) shall include—

9 (A) a description of the activities and ac-
10 complishments of the eligible entity in partici-
11 pating in the pilot program;

12 (B) the total number of times that a victim
13 advocate of the eligible entity was dispatched or
14 arrived to the crime scene of a domestic vio-
15 lence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalk-
16 ing call;

17 (C) whether the eligible entity observed a
18 reduction in repeat domestic violence, dating vi-
19 olence, sexual assault, or stalking calls;

20 (D) whether victims connected with serv-
21 ices of the eligible entity beyond the advocacy
22 occurring at a crime scene; and

23 (E) any other information relating to the
24 pilot program.

1 (h) EXPANSION.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1),
 2 the Director may continue and expand the pilot program
 3 by awarding additional grants under subsection (b) if, dur-
 4 ing the third year of the pilot program established under
 5 this section, the Director determines that data from the
 6 pilot program is promising in reducing—

7 (1) homicides as a result of domestic violence,
 8 dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and

9 (2) repeated calls relating to domestic violence,
 10 dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking from the
 11 same individuals.

12 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
 13 amounts authorized to be appropriated for discretionary
 14 grants under part U of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
 15 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10461 et
 16 seq.) for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025, such
 17 sums as may be necessary are authorized to be appro-
 18 priated to carry out this section for each of those fiscal
 19 years.

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