

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5546

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide funding for innovations in community policing, mental health care, and community safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide funding for innovations in community policing, mental health care, and community safety, 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 “Supporting Mental As-
5 sistance Responder Teams Community Policing Act” or
6 the “SMART Community Policing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to strength community po-
3 licing programs to—

4 (1) de-escalate interactions with law enforce-
5 ment officers to achieve better outcomes for non-vio-
6 lent individuals experiencing crisis or trauma relat-
7 ing to mental health issues, poverty, homelessness,
8 and substance use disorders;

9 (2) build collaborative partnerships to connect
10 individuals with mental health services and commu-
11 nity resources; and

12 (3) produce better outcomes for communities
13 and law enforcement officers by delivering the ap-
14 propriate treatment and other support services to in-
15 dividuals in need.

16 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USES OF COPS FUNDS.**

17 Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
18 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b))
19 is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (23), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (24), by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(25) to establish or expand a mobile crisis
26 team program to—

1 “(A) hire skilled mental health profes-
2 sionals and paramedics to—

3 “(i) respond to—

4 “(I) certain 911 dispatch calls at
5 the request of law enforcement offi-
6 cers; and

7 “(II) community members re-
8 questing assistance directly;

9 “(ii) stabilize encounters between law
10 enforcement officers and individuals expe-
11 riencing a mental or behavioral health cri-
12 sis; and

13 “(iii) assume responsibility for secur-
14 ing mental health services for individuals,
15 including individuals in crisis who may
16 need further evaluation and treatment;

17 “(B) train law enforcement officers
18 partnering with mental health professionals and
19 paramedics;

20 “(C) use a mobile unit to facilitate the re-
21 sponse of law enforcement officers and mental
22 health professionals and paramedics to commu-
23 nity members experiencing a mental or behav-
24 ioral health crisis; and

25 “(D) hire other personnel;

1 “(26) to establish or expand a co-responder
2 program under which—

3 “(A) a trained law enforcement officer is
4 paired with a behavioral health clinician or
5 paramedic to—

6 “(i) de-escalate situations involving a
7 mental health crisis;

8 “(ii) connect individuals with mental
9 illness to appropriate services; and

10 “(iii) provide other effective and effi-
11 cient responses to individuals with mental
12 illness; and

13 “(B) additional personnel, including law
14 enforcement officers and case managers, may
15 be hired; and

16 “(27) to establish or expand a case manage-
17 ment and outreach team—

18 “(A) to follow up with individuals experi-
19 encing a mental or behavioral health crisis to—

20 “(i) connect those individuals with
21 mental health services and community re-
22 sources; and

23 “(ii) help those individuals abide by
24 treatment plans and meet other respon-

1 sibilities, such as work, school, and train-
2 ing;

3 “(B) to develop specific solutions for, and
4 provide support resources to, individuals who
5 frequently use emergency services to reduce re-
6 peat interactions between the individuals de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (A) and law enforce-
8 ment officers or mental health professionals and
9 paramedics; and

10 “(C) which may be established as a part of
11 a mobile crisis team program under paragraph
12 (25), a co-responder program under paragraph
13 (26), or an independent team.”.

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