

every day. They deserve the tools and support necessary to keep themselves and the inmates whom they protect safe from harm.

Shane Fausey and Steve Markle, with the Council of Prison Locals, have been tireless advocates for America's corrections officers and staff, and their sage counsel was vital in developing the Prison Camera Reform Act, which has been a top legislative priority for our BOP Reform Caucus.

While the BOP faces many challenges, passing the Prison Camera Reform Act would be a major step forward for the agency, corrections officers, and security of America's Federal prisons.

□ 1830

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the lack of adequate camera systems puts the safety of both incarcerated individuals and correctional officers and staff at risk.

The Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021 is bipartisan legislation that takes an important step toward making much-needed improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, S. 2899, the "Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021," is bipartisan legislation that would require the Bureau of Prisons to evaluate the security camera, land-mobile radio, and public address systems in use at BOP institutions and submit to Congress a report on any deficiencies and a plan to implement needed improvements.

Security camera systems within prisons are critical for protecting the safety, wellbeing and civil rights of both incarcerated people and prison employees, including correctional officers, medical personnel and other staff.

Documented deficiencies in the federal Bureau of Prisons' security camera systems, however, limit the effectiveness of that protection.

A 2016, DOJ Office of Inspector General report identified major deficiencies and needed upgrades within the BOP's security camera system, including blind spots, inoperable cameras and limited functionality.

In a 2021 memo, OIG reaffirmed the 2016 report stating that "the OIG continues to see the same deficiencies in our investigations that we observed during our 2016 review. These deficiencies have negatively impacted the OIG's investigations and ability to secure prosecution of serious incidents in BOP institutions, including sexual assaults, civil rights violations, introduction of contraband, dereliction of duty, and even inmate deaths."

Although BOP has begun upgrading these systems at some institutions, serious shortcomings remain.

This bill would require BOP to investigate and address deficiencies in the camera and radio systems across all institutions.

BOP would also be required to implement all needed improvements within three years and submit annual progress reports. The significant oversight mechanisms within this legislation will enable Congress to hold BOP accountable and ensure all deficiencies are addressed within the specified time period.

"Dead spots" in video surveillance coverage inside FCI Dublin in California may have even contributed to the lack of accountability for the sexual abuse committed against incarcerated women in that facility.

Earlier this month, a former unit manager at FCI Dublin testified that the facility lacked sufficient security camera coverage and that many cameras are either not monitored or footage is deleted. The former warden is relying heavily on the lack of video footage in his defense against the sexual assault case.

This tragic story highlights the need to address camera deficiencies within BOP facilities as quickly as possible. The lack of adequate camera systems puts the safety of both incarcerated individuals and correctional officers and staff at risk.

This bill is a bipartisan common sense measure to require that BOP investigate and address these critical safety concerns and ensures that the improvements will be made by including adequate Congressional oversight.

I want to thank Representatives KELLER, MCBATH, and TRONE as well as Senator OSSOFF for introducing this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2899.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HELP FIND THE MISSING ACT

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 5230) to increase accessibility to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 5230

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Billy's Law" or the "Help Find the Missing Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, shall maintain the "National Missing and Unidentified Persons System" or "NamUs", consistent with the following:

(1) The NamUs shall be a national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States administered by the National Institute of Justice and managed through an agreement with an eligible entity.

(2) The NamUs shall coordinate or provide—

(A) online database technology which serves as a national information clearinghouse to help expedite case associations and resolutions;

(B) various free-of-charge forensic services to aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified remains;

(C) investigative support for criminal justice efforts to help missing and unidentified person case resolutions;

(D) technical assistance for family members of missing persons;

(E) assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families impacted by the loss or disappearance of a loved one; and

(F) training and outreach from NamUs subject matter experts, including assistance with planning and facilitating Missing Person Day events across the country.

(b) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The permissible use of funds awarded under this section for the implementation and maintenance of the agreement created in subparagraph (a)(1) include the use of funds—

(A) to hire additional personnel to provide case support and perform other core NamUs functions;

(B) to develop new technologies to facilitate timely data entry into the relevant data bases;

(C) to conduct contracting activities relevant to core NamUs services;

(D) to provide forensic analyses to support the identification of missing and unidentified persons, to include, but not limited to DNA typing, forensic odontology, fingerprint examination, and forensic anthropology;

(E) to train State, local, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and forensic medicine service providers to use NamUs resources and best practices for the investigation of missing and unidentified person cases;

(F) to assist States in providing information to the NCIC database, the NamUs database, or any future database system for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases;

(G) to report to law enforcement authorities in the jurisdiction in which the remains were found information on every deceased, unidentified person, regardless of age;

(H) to participate in Missing Person Days and other events to directly support family members of the missing with NamUs case entries and DNA collections;

(I) to provide assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families;

(J) to conduct data analytics and research projects for the purpose of enhancing knowledge, best practices, and training related to missing and unidentified person cases, as well as developing NamUs system enhancements;

(K) to create and maintain a secure, online, nationwide critical incident response tool for professionals that will connect law enforcement, medico-legal and emergency management professionals, as well as victims and families during a critical incident; and

(L) for other purposes consistent with the goals of this section.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1990 TO REQUIRE REPORTS OF MISSING CHILDREN TO NAMUS.—

(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 3701(a) of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 41307(a)) is amended by striking the period and inserting the following: "and, consistent with section 3 (including rules promulgated pursuant to section 3(c)) of the Help Find the Missing Act, shall also report such case, either directly or through authorization described in such section to transmit, enter, or share information on such case, to the NamUs databases."

(2) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 41308) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or the National Crime Information Center computer database” and inserting “, the National Crime Information Center computer database, or the NamUs databases”;

(B) in the matter following paragraph (3), by striking “and the National Crime Information Center computer networks” and inserting “, the National Crime Information Center computer networks, and the NamUs databases”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or the NamUs databases” after “National Crime Information Center”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and National Crime Information Center computer networks” and inserting “, National Crime Information Center computer networks, and the NamUs databases”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to reports made before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) ACCESS TO NCIC.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, in accordance with this section, provide access to the NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person Files to the National Institute of Justice or its designee administering the NamUs program as a grantee or contractor, for the purpose of reviewing missing and unidentified person records in NCIC for case validation and NamUs data reconciliation.

(b) ELECTRONIC DATA SHARING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, in accordance with this section, have completed an assessment of the NCIC and NamUs system architectures and governing statutes, policies, and procedures and provide a proposed plan for the secure and automatic data transmission of missing and unidentified person records that are reported to and entered into the NCIC database, with the following criteria, to be electronically transmitted to the NamUs system.

(1) Missing Person cases with an MNP (Missing Person) code of CA (Child Abduction) or AA (Amber Alert) within 72 hours of entry into NCIC;

(2) Missing Person cases with an MNP code EME (Endangered) or EMI (Involuntary) within 30 days of entry into NCIC;

(3) All other Missing Person cases that have been active (non-cancelled) in NCIC for 180 days;

(4) Unidentified person cases that have been active (non-cancelled) in NCIC for 60 days;

(5) Once case data are transmitted to NamUs, cases are marked as such within NCIC, and any updates to such cases will be transmitted to NamUs within 24 hours.

(c) RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the FBI, shall promulgate rules pursuant to notice and comment that specify the information the Attorney General may allow NamUs to access from the NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person files or be transmitted from the NCIC database to the NamUs databases for purposes of this Act. Such rules shall—

(A) provide for the protection of confidential, private, and law enforcement sensitive information contained in the NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person files; and

(B) specify the circumstances in which access to portions of information in the Miss-

ing Person and Unidentified Person files may be withheld from the NamUs databases.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue a report to offices of forensic medicine service providers, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies describing the best practices for the collection, reporting, and analysis of data and information on missing persons and unidentified human remains. Such best practices shall—

(1) provide an overview of the NCIC database and NamUs databases;

(2) describe how local law enforcement agencies, and offices of forensic medicine service providers should access and use the NCIC database and NamUs databases;

(3) describe the appropriate and inappropriate uses of the NCIC database and NamUs databases; and

(4) describe the standards and protocols for the collection, reporting, and analysis of data and information on missing persons and unidentified human remains.

SEC. 5. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report describing the status of the NCIC database and NamUs databases.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall describe, to the extent available, information on the process of information sharing between the NCIC database and NamUs databases.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AUTHORIZED AGENCY.—The term “authorized agency” means a Government agency with an originating agency identification (ORI) number and that is a criminal justice agency, as defined in section 20.3 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) FBI.—The term “FBI” means the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) FORENSIC MEDICINE SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “forensic medicine service provider” means a State or unit of local government forensic medicine service provider having not fewer than 1 part-time or full-time employed forensic pathologist, or forensic pathologist under contract, who conducts medicolegal death investigations, including examinations of human remains, and who provides reports or opinion testimony with respect to such activity in courts of law within the United States.

(4) FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “forensic science service provider” means a State or unit of local government agency having not fewer than 1 full-time analyst who examines physical evidence in criminal or investigative matters and provides reports or opinion testimony with respect to such evidence in courts in the United States.

(5) NAMUS DATABASES.—The term “NamUs databases” means the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Missing Persons database and National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Unidentified Decedents database maintained by the National Institute of Justice of the Department of Justice, which serves as a clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases.

(6) NCIC DATABASE.—The term “NCIC database” means the National Crime Information Center Missing Person File and National Crime Information Center Unidentified Person File of the National Crime Information Center database of the FBI, established pur-

suant to section 534 of title 28, United States Code.

(7) QUALIFYING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DEFINED.—The term “qualifying law enforcement agency” means a State, local, or Tribal law enforcement agency.

(8) STATE.—The term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 5230.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every year in this country over 600,000 Americans go missing. While many of the missing are fortunate to be found alive and well, tens of thousands of individuals remain missing for more than 1 year, what many agencies consider to be cold cases.

It is also estimated that 4,400 unidentified bodies are recovered each year, with approximately 1,000 of those remaining unidentified, also becoming cold cases.

The families of those who go missing are forced to endure crushing uncertainty, not knowing what happened to their loved ones or if they will ever return. But they also face systemic challenges in helping law enforcement locate the missing or match them to unidentified remains so that they can at least have some semblance of closure.

The Help Find the Missing Act, or Billy's Law, is bipartisan legislation that will help address this crisis by closing loopholes in our Nation's missing person databases by streamlining the reporting process and ensuring that law enforcement databases are more comprehensive and accessible.

The bill is named after Billy Smolinski of Waterbury, Connecticut, who went missing in 2004 at the age of 31, and whose family ran into countless obstacles as they attempted to help law enforcement in the search, including that Federal law does not mandate the reporting of missing adults or unidentified bodies.

This problem is compounded by the fact that local law enforcement agencies, medical examiners, and coroners often lack the resources and training to report these cases to the appropriate national authorities. When cases of missing persons or unidentified remains are reported, the number of separate and uncoordinated Federal,

State, and local databases makes it extremely difficult to find the missing or match them with recovered remains.

Billy's Law will address these challenges by authorizing and ensuring funding for the Department of Justice to continue to maintain the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, or NamUs, which is the national clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons. It provides an online database that is accessible to law enforcement and the public, and to which the public can contribute.

NamUs also provides free forensic services to aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified remains; investigative support to law enforcement agencies; technical assistance to families of missing persons; and its subject matter experts train State and local service providers to support individuals and families impacted by the disappearance of a loved one.

Critically, Billy's Law would require data sharing between NamUs and the FBI's National Crime Information Center, or NCIC, in order to create more comprehensive databases of missing persons and unidentified remains and streamline the reporting process for State, local, and Tribal law enforcement. It would also amend current law to require that missing children be reported to NamUs as well as to NCIC, and it would require the reporting of information on every unidentified deceased person, regardless of age.

In addition, the bill would require the Attorney General to issue guidelines and best practices to law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners on handling cases involving missing persons or unidentified remains.

We must do everything possible to ensure that we have a comprehensive and coordinated missing persons reporting and investigation system that works so that we can provide resolution to the families of those whose loved ones disappear.

I thank Senator CHRIS MURPHY for his yearslong effort to pass Billy's Law, and I thank Representative JAHANA HAYES for introducing the House companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 5230, the Help Find the Missing Act, authorizes the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System was created by the Department of Justice 15 years ago to provide a missing persons and unidentified remains database that the public can contribute to and access.

S. 5230 would connect the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System with the FBI's National Crime Information Center, which would create more comprehensive missing persons

and unidentified remains databases. This would allow for a more streamlined reporting process for law enforcement.

This bill would also require missing children be reported to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. Currently, missing children are only required to be reported to the National Crime Information Center.

Finally, the bill would require the Department of Justice to issue guidelines and best practices on handling missing persons and unidentified remains cases for law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners to find the missing.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES), a sponsor of the bill.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 5230, the Help Find the Missing Act, also known as Billy's Law. I thank Senator MURPHY for his leadership on this bill, and I am honored to introduce it in the House.

This bill is named for Billy Smolinski. Billy went missing from my hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut, on August 24, 2004, nearly 20 years ago.

Unlike with missing children, Federal law does not require law enforcement to report missing adults or unidentified bodies. Without it, families are left to unravel the mystery of what happened to their loved ones without any support. The Smolinski family was left to navigate a complicated and disjointed system.

In the absence of a vigorous and sustained effort to solve the crime, the family created a personal tip line, placed billboards on highways that I drove by every day for many years, and worked closely with a private investigator.

When Bill and Janice Smolinski received tips, they would organize search parties, which worked with rescue teams and brought in highly trained cadaver dogs to sniff the woods in search of their son.

Each year, nearly half a million people go missing, and sadly, many of them will never see their loved ones again. Yet, over 40,000 sets of unidentified human remains are either held at coroners' offices or disposed of after going unclaimed.

Due to gaps in missing persons databases, missing persons and unidentified remains are rarely matched. Billy's Law will fix this critical gap by directing the Department of Justice to continually operate NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and connect it to the FBI's National Crime Information Center. It will also provide guidelines for local law enforcement agencies, medical examiners, and coroners on how to best handle missing person cases.

This bill has the support of the National Fraternal Order of Police and the Consortium of Forensic Science Or-

ganizations, as well as both the Smolinski family and the family of Gabby Petito.

This bill will also help to bring home the missing, many whose names never make headlines or who are never talked about in the media, and offer closure to the families of those who will never make it home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bipartisan, common-sense legislation to deliver justice to countless families.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the families and loved ones of those who have gone missing spend every day desperately searching for answers and for help. Billy's Law provides critical tools to help them find answers, coordinating our Nation's multiple missing persons databases, increasing reporting requirements, and providing training and resources to the myriad agencies that investigate these cases, while supporting the victims' families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this crucial bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 5230, the "Help Find the Missing Act," also known as "Billy's Law."

This bipartisan legislation would fix the gaps in our Nation's databases of missing persons and unidentified remains, providing much-needed closure to the thousands of families who have endured the trauma of losing someone they love.

Each year more than 600,000 Americans are reported missing. While many are ultimately found, at least 22,000 Americans are currently missing, and the remains of over 14,000 individuals have been recovered but not identified.

My own State of Texas has been hit particularly hard by the crisis of missing persons, as we have more than 2,200 open cases—second only to California—and three Texas cities rank among the top 10 cities with the highest number of missing persons.

The pain that families experience when one of their loved ones goes missing is unimaginable. It is not merely a loss; it is a loss accompanied by terror, uncertainty, and endless questions that are rarely answered. We can, and we must, do more to help find the missing; to save who we can; and to provide assistance to the families of those who we cannot find or save.

Billy's Law would help us find more of our missing Americans by ensuring that the Department of Justice continues to maintain the National Missing Persons and Unidentified Persons System, or "NamUs."

In addition to providing a database of missing persons, NamUs provides a variety of critical support services to law enforcement, medical examiners, and families of those who have gone missing.

But not all missing persons and unidentified remains are required to be reported to NamUs. That is why Billy's Law is so critical.

Rather than having a multitude of unconnected missing person databases that cannot communicate with each other, Billy's Law would link NamUs with the FBI's National

Criminal Information Center (NCIC) database, creating more complete, comprehensive databases and streamlining the reporting process.

The bill would also require the Attorney General to issue guidelines and best practices to the agencies that handle cases involving missing persons or unidentified remains.

Lastly, Billy's Law would expand current law to require that missing children be reported to NamUs, in addition to NCIC, and it will require the reporting of information on every unidentified deceased person, adults and children alike.

My State of Texas passed similar legislation just last year, requiring law enforcement agencies and medical examiners to use NamUs to solve missing and unidentified persons cases.

But while I am proud of the steps my State has taken, this is a national problem that demands a national solution. Billy's Law is that solution.

As a testament to the value of this bipartisan legislation, it is supported by numerous law enforcement and forensic specialist organizations, including the National Association of Police Organizations, the Fraternal Order of Police, The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the National Association of Medical Examiners.

I commend Senator MURPHY for his years of dedication to Billy's Law and missing persons across the country, and I thank Representative HAYES for her work on this issue as well. I urge my colleagues to support this significant bipartisan legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 5230.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DE-ESCALATION TRAINING ACT OF 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1518, I call up the bill (S. 4003) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for training on alternatives to use of force, de-escalation, and mental and behavioral health and suicidal crises, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). Pursuant to House Resolution 1518, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4003

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. TRAINING ON ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF FORCE, DE-ESCALATION, AND MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 901(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (27), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (28), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(29) the term ‘de-escalation’ means taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary;

“(30) the term ‘mental or behavioral health or suicidal crisis’—

“(A) means a situation in which the behavior of a person—

“(i) puts the person at risk of hurting himself or herself or others; or

“(ii) impairs or prevents the person from being able to care for himself or herself or function effectively in the community; and

“(B) includes a situation in which a person—

“(i) is under the influence of a drug or alcohol, is suicidal, or experiences symptoms of a mental illness; or

“(ii) may exhibit symptoms, including emotional reactions (such as fear or anger), psychological impairments (such as inability to focus, confusion, or psychosis), and behavioral reactions (such as the trigger of a freeze, fight, or flight response);

“(31) the term ‘disability’ has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102);

“(32) the term ‘crisis intervention team’ means a collaborative, interdisciplinary team that brings together specially trained law enforcement officers, mental health providers, and other community stakeholders to respond to mental health-related calls, use appropriate de-escalation techniques, and assess if referral to services or transport for mental health evaluation is appropriate; and

“(33) the term ‘covered mental health professional’ means a mental health professional working on a crisis intervention team—

“(A) as an employee of a law enforcement agency; or

“(B) under a legal agreement with a law enforcement agency.”.

(b) COPS PROGRAM.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) TRAINING IN ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF FORCE, DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES, AND MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISES.—

“(1) TRAINING CURRICULA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall develop training curricula or identify effective existing training curricula for law enforcement officers and for covered mental health professionals regarding—

“(i) de-escalation tactics and alternatives to use of force;

“(ii) safely responding to an individual experiencing a mental or behavioral health or suicidal crisis or an individual with a disability, including techniques and strategies that are designed to protect the safety of that individual, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, and the public;

“(iii) successfully participating on a crisis intervention team; and

“(iv) making referrals to community-based mental and behavioral health services and support, housing assistance programs, public benefits programs, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and other services.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The training curricula developed or identified under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) scenario-based exercises;

“(ii) pre-training and post-training tests to assess relevant knowledge and skills covered in the training curricula; and

“(iii) follow-up evaluative assessments to determine the degree to which participants in the training apply, in their jobs, the knowledge and skills gained in the training.

“(C) CONSULTATION.—The Attorney General shall develop and identify training curricula under this paragraph in consultation with relevant law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government, associations that represent individuals with mental or behavioral health diagnoses or individuals with disabilities, labor organizations, professional law enforcement organizations, local law enforcement labor and representative organizations, law enforcement trade associations, mental health and suicide prevention organizations, family advocacy organizations, and civil rights and civil liberties groups.

“(2) CERTIFIED PROGRAMS AND COURSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which training curricula are developed or identified under paragraph (1)(A), the Attorney General shall establish a process to—

“(i) certify training programs and courses offered by public and private entities to law enforcement officers or covered mental health professionals using 1 or more of the training curricula developed or identified under paragraph (1), or equivalents to such training curricula, which may include certifying a training program or course that an entity began offering on or before the date on which the Attorney General establishes the process; and

“(ii) terminate the certification of a training program or course if the program or course fails to continue to meet the standards under the training curricula developed or identified under paragraph (1).

“(B) PARTNERSHIPS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which training curricula are developed or identified under paragraph (1)(A), the Attorney General shall develop criteria to ensure that public and private entities that offer training programs or courses that are certified under subparagraph (A) collaborate with local mental health organizations to—

“(i) enhance the training experience of law enforcement officers through consultation with and the participation of individuals with mental or behavioral health diagnoses or disabilities, particularly such individuals who have interacted with law enforcement officers; and

“(ii) strengthen relationships between health care services and law enforcement agencies.

“(3) TRANSITIONAL REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY PERSONNEL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—During the period beginning on the date on which the Attorney General establishes the process required under paragraph (2)(A) and ending on the date that is 18 months after that date, the Attorney General shall, and thereafter the Attorney General may, provide, in collaboration with law enforcement training academies of States and units of local government as appropriate, regional training to equip personnel from law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government in a