

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 266

To evaluate the effectiveness of certain community efforts in coordination with local police departments in preventing and removing violent crime and drug trafficking from the community, in increasing economic development in the community, and in preventing or ending retaliation by perpetrators of crime against community residents, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To evaluate the effectiveness of certain community efforts in coordination with local police departments in preventing and removing violent crime and drug trafficking from the community, in increasing economic development in the community, and in preventing or ending retaliation by perpetrators of crime against community residents, 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 “Neighborhood Security  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

5 It is the purpose of this Act to provide for the estab-  
6 lishment of demonstration projects designed to determine  
7 the effectiveness of—

8 (1) certain activities by community residents in  
9 coordination with the local police department in pre-  
10 venting and removing violent crime and drug traf-  
11 ficking from the community;

12 (2) such activities in increasing economic devel-  
13 opment in the community; and

14 (3) such activities in preventing or ending retal-  
15 iation by perpetrators of crime against community  
16 residents engaged in these activities.

17 **SEC. 3. DEMONSTRATION GRANT AUTHORITY.**

18 (a) **DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.**—Not later than  
19 16 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
20 Secretary shall award grants under this Act. Grants shall  
21 be awarded annually under this section and shall be for  
22 a period of 4 years.

23 (b) **LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.**—The amount  
24 of each grant awarded under this Act shall not be less  
25 than \$25,000 nor more than \$100,000.

1       (c) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT.—Amounts provided  
2 under a grant awarded under this Act for a fiscal year  
3 shall be reduced in proportion to any reduction in the  
4 amounts appropriated under this Act for such fiscal year  
5 as compared to the amounts appropriated for the prior  
6 fiscal year.

7       (d) UNUSED PORTION OF GRANT FUNDS.—Any un-  
8 used portion of a grant awarded under this section shall,  
9 upon the termination of such grant, be transferred to the  
10 Secretary for redistribution in the subsequent fiscal year  
11 or for repayment to the Department of the Treasury.

12 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION.**

13       (a) SUBMISSION.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
14 under section 3, a qualified entity shall, not later than 12  
15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, submit  
16 to the Secretary an application to conduct a demonstration  
17 project under this Act.

18       (b) CONTENT.—An application submitted under sub-  
19 section (a) shall be in such form and contain such infor-  
20 mation as the Secretary shall require, including—

21               (1) an agreement with the local police depart-  
22               ment to coordinate and assist in the prevention and  
23               removal of violent crime and drug trafficking from  
24               the target community;

1           (2) a plan detailing the nature and extent of co-  
2           ordination and assistance to be provided by the local  
3           police department, project participants, and the ap-  
4           plicant; and

5           (3) a description of the strategy of the commu-  
6           nity for the physical and economic development of  
7           the community.

8           (c) CRITERIA.—In considering whether to approve an  
9           application submitted under this section, the Secretary  
10          shall consider—

11           (1) the degree to which the project described in  
12           the application will support existing community eco-  
13           nomic development activities by preventing and re-  
14           moving violent crime and drug trafficking from the  
15           community;

16           (2) the demonstrated record of project partici-  
17           pants with respect to economic and community de-  
18           velopment activities;

19           (3) the ability of the applicant to responsibly  
20           administer the project;

21           (4) the ability of the applicant to assist and co-  
22           ordinate with project participants to achieve eco-  
23           nomic development and prevent and remove violent  
24           crime and drug trafficking in the community;

1           (5) the adequacy of the plan to assist and co-  
2           ordinate with the local police department in prevent-  
3           ing and removing violent crime and drug trafficking  
4           in the community;

5           (6) the consistency of the application with the  
6           eligible activities and the uses for the grant under  
7           this Act;

8           (7) the aggregate amount of funds from non-  
9           Federal (public and private sector) sources that are  
10          formally committed to the project;

11          (8) the adequacy of the plan for providing in-  
12          formation relevant to an evaluation of the project to  
13          the independent research organization; and

14          (9) such other factors as may be determined  
15          appropriate by the Secretary.

16          (d) PREFERENCES.—In considering an application  
17          submitted under this section, the Secretary shall give pref-  
18          erence to an applicant that demonstrates a commitment  
19          to work with project participants and a local police depart-  
20          ment in a community with—

21                 (1) an enterprise zone or enterprise community  
22                 designation or an area established pursuant to any  
23                 consolidated planning process for use of Federal  
24                 housing and community development funds;

1           (2) significant rates of violent crime and drug  
2           trafficking, as determined by the Secretary; and

3           (3) at least one non-profit community develop-  
4           ment corporation or similar organization that is will-  
5           ing to and capable of increasing economic develop-  
6           ment.

7           (e) APPROVAL.—Not later than 15 months after the  
8           date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, on com-  
9           petitive basis, approve or disapprove of the applications  
10          submitted under this section.

11       **SEC. 5. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

12          (a) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts provided under a grant  
13          awarded under this Act shall be used for the following ac-  
14          tivities:

15               (1) Citizen patrols by car or by foot intended to  
16               prevent violent crime and eradicate open market or  
17               street sales of controlled substances.

18               (2) Block watch activities, including identifica-  
19               tion of property for purposes of retrieving stolen  
20               goods, camera surveillance to identify drug traffick-  
21               ers and their customers, protection of evidence to  
22               ensure evidence is not lost or destroyed prior to po-  
23               lice arrival, and computer linkages among organiza-  
24               tions and the police to identify hot spots and speed  
25               the dissemination of information.

1           (3) Property modification programs, including  
2           securing buildings and residences to prevent bur-  
3           glary, and structural changes, such as the construc-  
4           tion of fences, to parks or buildings to prevent drug  
5           sales or other criminal activity in those areas.

6           (4) Squatter eviction programs aimed at notify-  
7           ing public authorities of trespassers in abandoned  
8           buildings used as crack houses or heroin shooting  
9           galleries and increasing efforts to remove such  
10          squatters.

11          (5) Expansion of community liaisons with the  
12          police, including expanding the community's role in  
13          community policing activities.

14          (6) Developing and expanding programs to pre-  
15          vent or end retaliation by perpetrators of crime  
16          against project participants.

17          (7) Other activities consistent with the purposes  
18          of this Act.

19          (b) **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—Amounts provided  
20          under a grant awarded under this Act may be used for  
21          additional activities in support of the activities described  
22          in subsection (a), including—

23                 (1) the purchase of equipment or supplies, in-  
24                 cluding cameras, video cameras, walkie-talkies, and  
25                 computers;

1           (2) the training of project participants; and  
2           (3) the hiring of staff for grantees or project  
3       participant organizations to assist in coordinating  
4       activities among project participants and with the  
5       local police department.

6 **SEC. 6. LOCAL CONTROL OVER PROJECTS.**

7       Except as provided in regulations promulgated under  
8       the succeeding sentence, each organization authorized to  
9       conduct a demonstration project under this Act shall have  
10      exclusive authority over the administration of the project.  
11      The Secretary may prescribe such regulations with respect  
12      to such demonstration projects as are expressly authorized  
13      or as are necessary to ensure compliance with approved  
14      applications and this Act.

15 **SEC. 7. MONITORING OF GRANTEES.**

16      (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall monitor  
17      grantees to ensure that the projects conducted under the  
18      grants are being carried out in accordance with this Act.  
19      Each grantee, and each entity which has received funds  
20      from a grant made under this Act, shall make appropriate  
21      books, documents, papers, and records available to the  
22      Secretary for examination, copying, or mechanical repro-  
23      duction on or off the premises of the entity upon a reason-  
24      able request therefore.

1 (b) WITHHOLDING, TERMINATION OR RECAPTURE.—  
2 The Secretary shall, after adequate notice and an oppor-  
3 tunity for a hearing, withhold, terminate, or recapture any  
4 funds due, or provided to and unused by, an entity under  
5 a grant awarded under this Act if the Secretary deter-  
6 mines that such entity has not used any such amounts  
7 in accordance with the requirements of this Act. The Sec-  
8 retary shall withhold, terminate, or recapture such funds  
9 until the Secretary determines that the reason for the  
10 withholding, termination, or recapture has been removed  
11 and there is reasonable assurance that it will not recur.

12 (c) COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary shall respond in an  
13 expeditious manner to complaints of a substantial or seri-  
14 ous nature that an entity has failed to use funds provided  
15 under this Act in accordance with the requirements of this  
16 Act.

17 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND AUDITS.**

18 (a) REPORTS.—Not later than 3 months after the  
19 termination of a grant under this Act, the grantee shall  
20 prepare and submit to the Secretary a report containing  
21 such information as may be required by the Secretary.

22 (b) AUDITS.—The Secretary shall annually audit the  
23 expenditures of each grantee under this Act from pay-  
24 ments received under grants awarded under this Act. Such  
25 audits shall be conducted by an entity independent of any

1 agency administering a program funded under this Act  
2 and, in so far as practical, in accordance with the Comp-  
3 troller General's standards for auditing governmental or-  
4 ganizations, programs, activities, and functions.

5 **SEC. 9. EVALUATIONS.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 16 months after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter  
8 into a contract with an independent research organization  
9 under which such organization, in accordance with this  
10 section, conducts an evaluation of the demonstration  
11 projects, individually and as a group, conducted under this  
12 Act.

13 (b) **RESEARCH QUESTIONS.**—In evaluating a dem-  
14 onstration project conducted under this Act, the organiza-  
15 tion described in subsection (a) shall address the following:

16 (1) What activities and uses most effectively in-  
17 volve project participants in the activities and uses  
18 under this Act (with effectiveness measured, for ex-  
19 ample, by duration of participation, frequency of  
20 participation, and intensity of participation).

21 (2) What activities and uses are most effective  
22 in preventing or removing violent crime and drug  
23 trafficking from a target community.

1           (3) What activities and uses are most effective  
2           in supporting or promoting economic development in  
3           a target community.

4           (4) What activities and uses are most effective  
5           in increasing coordination and assistance between  
6           project participants and with the local police depart-  
7           ment.

8           (5) What activities and uses are most effective  
9           in preventing or ending retaliation by perpetrators of  
10          crime against project participants.

11          (c) FUNDING.—Of the funds appropriated under this  
12 Act, the Secretary shall set aside not less than 1 percent  
13 and not more than 3 percent for the evaluations required  
14 under this section.

15          (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6  
16 months after the date on which the last grant under this  
17 Act terminates, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to  
18 the appropriate committees of the Congress a summary  
19 of each evaluation conducted under this section.

20 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21          There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
22 this Act, \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1997,  
23 1998, 1999, and 2000.

24 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

25          As used in this Act:

1           (1) COMMUNITY.—The term “community”  
2 means a contiguous geographic area within a large  
3 urban district or encompassing a small urban or  
4 other nonurban area.

5           (2) DRUG TRAFFICKING.—The term “drug traf-  
6 ficking” means any offense that could be prosecuted  
7 under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.  
8 801, et seq.).

9           (3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—The term  
10 “economic development” means revitalization and  
11 development activities, including business, commer-  
12 cial, housing, and employment activities, that benefit  
13 a community and its residents.

14           (4) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means a  
15 qualified entity that receives a grant under this Act.

16           (5) PROJECT PARTICIPANT.—The term “project  
17 participant” means any individual or private-sector  
18 group in a community participating in any of the ac-  
19 tivities established under a demonstration grant  
20 under this Act.

21           (6) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term “qualified  
22 entity” means a non-profit organization described in  
23 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
24 1986 and exempt from taxation under the Internal  
25 Revenue Code of 1986.

1           (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

3           (8) VIOLENT CRIME.—The term “violent crime”  
4           has the same meaning as the term “crime of vio-  
5           lence” in title 18 of the United States Code.

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