

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 973

To provide for school safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. ROBB (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for school 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 “School Safety En-
5 hancement Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) While our Nation’s schools are still rel-
9 atively safe, it is imperative that schools be provided
10 with adequate resources to prevent incidents of vio-
11 lence.

1 (2) Approximately 10 percent of all public
2 schools reported at least 1 serious violent crime to
3 a law enforcement agency over the course of the
4 1996–1997 school year.

5 (3) In 1996, approximately 225,000 students
6 between the ages of 12 and 18 were victims of
7 nonfatal violent crime in schools in the United
8 States.

9 (4) From 1992 through 1994, 76 students and
10 29 non-students were victims of murders or suicides
11 that were committed in schools in the United States.

12 (5) The school violence incidents in several
13 States across the Nation in 1998 and 1999 caused
14 enormous damage to schools, families, and whole
15 communities.

16 (6) Because of escalating school violence, the
17 children of the United States are increasingly afraid
18 that they will be attacked or harmed at school.

19 (7) A report issued by the Department of Edu-
20 cation in August, 1998, entitled “Early Warning,
21 Early Response” concluded that the reduction and
22 prevention of school violence is best achieved
23 through safety plans which involve the entire com-
24 munity, policies which emphasize both prevention
25 and intervention, training school personnel, parents,

1 students, and community members to recognize the
2 early warning signs of potential violent behavior and
3 to share their concerns or observations with trained
4 personnel, establishing procedures which allow rapid
5 response and intervention when early warning signs
6 of violent behavior are identified, and providing ade-
7 quate support and access to services for troubled
8 students.

9 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOOL AND YOUTH SAFE-**
10 **TY.**

11 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Education
12 and the Attorney General shall jointly establish a National
13 Center for School and Youth Safety (in this section re-
14 ferred to as the “Center”). The Secretary of Education
15 and the Attorney General may establish the Center at an
16 existing facility, if the facility has a history of performing
17 two or more of the duties described in subsection (b). The
18 Secretary of Education and the Attorney General shall
19 jointly appoint a Director of the Center to oversee the op-
20 eration of the Center.

21 (b) **DUTIES.**—The Center shall carry out emergency
22 response, anonymous student hotline, consultation, and in-
23 formation and outreach activities with respect to elemen-
24 tary and secondary school safety, including the following:

1 (1) EMERGENCY RESPONSE.—The staff of the
2 Center, and such temporary contract employees as
3 the Director of the Center shall determine necessary,
4 shall offer emergency assistance to local commu-
5 nities to respond to school safety crises. Such assist-
6 ance shall include counseling for victims and the
7 community, assistance to law enforcement to address
8 short-term security concerns, and advice on how to
9 enhance school safety, prevent future incidents, and
10 respond to future incidents.

11 (2) ANONYMOUS STUDENT HOTLINE.—The
12 Center shall establish a toll-free telephone number
13 for students to report criminal activity, threats of
14 criminal activity, and other high-risk behaviors such
15 as substance abuse, gang or cult affiliation, depres-
16 sion, or other warning signs of potentially violent be-
17 havior. The Center shall relay the reports, without
18 attribution, to local law enforcement or appropriate
19 school hotlines. The Director of the Center shall
20 work with the Attorney General to establish guide-
21 lines for Center staff to work with law enforcement
22 around the Nation to relay information reported
23 through the hotline.

24 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Center shall estab-
25 lish a toll-free number for the public to contact staff

1 of the Center for consultation regarding school safe-
2 ty. The Director of the Center shall hire administra-
3 tive staff and individuals with expertise in enhancing
4 school safety, including individuals with backgrounds
5 in counseling and psychology, education, law en-
6 forcement and criminal justice, and community de-
7 velopment to assist in the consultation.

8 (4) INFORMATION AND OUTREACH.—The Cen-
9 ter shall compile information about the best prac-
10 tices in school violence prevention, intervention, and
11 crisis management, and shall serve as a clearing-
12 house for model school safety program information.
13 The staff of the Center shall work to ensure local
14 governments, school officials, parents, students, and
15 law enforcement officials and agencies are aware of
16 the resources, grants, and expertise available to en-
17 hance school safety and prevent school crime. The
18 staff of the Center shall give special attention to
19 providing outreach to rural and impoverished com-
20 munities.

21 (c) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Education shall
22 make available \$15,000,000 from amounts appropriated
23 to carry out title IV of the Elementary and Secondary
24 Education Act of 1965, and the Attorney General shall
25 make available \$35,000,000 from amounts appropriated

1 for programs administered by the Office of Justice Pro-
2 grams of the Department of Justice, for each of fiscal
3 years 2000 through 2003 to carry out this section.

4 **SEC. 4. SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Using funds made avail-
6 able under subsection (c), the Secretary of Education, the
7 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attor-
8 ney General shall award grants, on a competitive basis,
9 to help communities develop community-wide safety pro-
10 grams involving students, parents, educators, guidance
11 counselors, psychologists, law enforcement officials or
12 agencies, civic leaders, and other organizations serving the
13 community.

14 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Funds provided
15 under this section may be used for activities that may in-
16 clude efforts to—

- 17 (1) increase early intervention strategies;
- 18 (2) expand parental involvement;
- 19 (3) increase students' awareness of warning
20 signs of violent behavior;
- 21 (4) promote students' responsibility to report
22 the warning signs to appropriate persons;
- 23 (5) promote conflict resolution and peer medi-
24 ation programs;

