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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To authorize the Attorney General to make grants to eligible entities to carry out blue envelope programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Attorney General to make grants to eligible entities to carry out blue envelope programs, 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 Blue Enve-
5 lope Programs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BLUE ENVELOPE GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting
8 through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance

1 (referred to in this section as the “Director”) is authorized
2 to make grants to eligible entities to create or support blue
3 envelope programs.

4 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
5 tion, the Director shall prioritize blue envelope programs
6 that—

7 (1) have scalability or a plan to continue the
8 operation of the program beyond the duration of the
9 grant award;

10 (2) have community support;

11 (3) involve multiple law enforcement agencies;

12 and

13 (4) involve entities that —

14 (A) have demonstrated person-centered
15 and trauma-informed practices and actively en-
16 gage individuals in the community with autism
17 spectrum disorder or developmental, cognitive,
18 sensory, or communication disabilities, who may
19 face communication barriers during law en-
20 forcement encounters;

21 (B) have experience in providing training
22 and resources to law enforcement agencies in
23 interactions with such individuals; and

24 (C) seek the input and feedback from self-
25 advocates with a variety of disabilities.

1 (c) DISTRIBUTION.—The Director shall make every
2 effort to ensure a broad geographic distribution of awards
3 under this section and take into consideration the needs
4 of underserved populations, including rural and tribal
5 communities.

6 (d) REPORT.—On the date that is 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, and every two years there-
8 after, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on—

9 (1) the implementation of the grant program
10 under this section;

11 (2) different models and examples of blue envelope
12 programs funded under this section, including
13 trainings and materials used; and

14 (3) any best practices for blue envelope pro-
15 grams.

16 (e) DIRECTORY.—The Director shall maintain a pub-
17 licly accessible online directory of blue envelope programs
18 for use by members of the public to locate the nearest blue
19 envelope program.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

23 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) The term “eligible entity” means —

1 (A) a law enforcement agency or group of
2 law enforcement agencies that has a partner-
3 ship a with nonprofit organization that is de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (B) for the purpose of
5 creating or supporting a blue envelope program;
6 or

7 (B) a nonprofit organization—
8 (i) that provides services to or other-
9 wise assists individuals with autism spec-
10 trum disorder or developmental, cognitive,
11 sensory, or communication disabilities, and
12 families of such individuals; and

13 (ii) that has a partnership with one or
14 more law enforcement agencies for the pur-
15 pose of creating or supporting a blue enve-
16 lope program.

17 (2) The term “blue envelope program” means a
18 program operated by an eligible entity—

19 (A) that provides training and resources
20 for law enforcement officers (and may provide
21 training for first responders) on improving
22 interactions with autism spectrum disorder or
23 developmental, cognitive, sensory, or commu-
24 nication disabilities;

(B) that does not have a registration component or participant list for participating individuals described in subparagraph (A);

4 (C) in which participation is voluntary for
5 individuals described in subparagraph (A);

11 (i) blue envelopes that can be used to
12 store essential documents in vehicles, such
13 as identification, diagnosis information,
14 communication preferences and emergency
15 contact information for use during vehicle-
16 related law enforcement encounters; and

17 (ii) other items and materials that
18 may include—

19 (I) car decals;

20 (II) seatbelt covers:

21 (III) lanyards:

22 (IV) keychains:

23 (V) pins; and

24 (VI) other accessories and re-
25 sources that can be helpful in over-

1 coming communication barriers in
2 interactions with law enforcement and
3 first responders; and

4 (E) that provides education, including vol-
5 untary training and resources—

6 (i) for community members on how to
7 safely interact with individuals described in
8 subparagraph (A); and

9 (ii) for individuals described in sub-
10 paragraph (A) on how use the items and
11 materials described in subparagraph (D).