

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8146, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY**

Add at the end of the bill the following:

1 SEC. 4. INVEST TO PROTECT GRANT PROGRAM.

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

3 (1) DE-ESCALATION TRAINING.—The term “de-
4 escalation training” means training relating to tak-
5 ing action or communicating verbally or non-verbally
6 during a potential force encounter in an attempt to
7 stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of
8 the threat so that more time, options, and resources
9 can be called upon to resolve the situation without
10 the use of force or with a reduction in the force nec-
11 essary.

12 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
13 the Director of the Office.

14 (3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term
15 “eligible local government” means—

16 (A) a county, municipality, town, township,
17 village, parish, borough, or other unit of general
18 government below the State level that employs
19 fewer than 200 law enforcement officers; and

1 (B) a Tribal government that employs
2 fewer than 200 law enforcement officers.

3 (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term
4 “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the
5 term “career law enforcement officer” in section
6 1709 of title I the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
7 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389).

8 (5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
9 fice of Community Oriented Policing Services of the
10 Department of Justice.

11 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
12 the Office a grant program to—

13 (1) provide training and access to mental health
14 resources to local law enforcement officers; and

15 (2) improve the recruitment and retention of
16 local law enforcement officers.

17 (c) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall award
19 grants to eligible local governments as a part of the grant
20 program established under subsection (b).

21 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

22 (1) BARRIERS.—The Attorney General shall de-
23 termine what barriers exist to establishing a stream-
24 lined application process for grants under this sec-
25 tion.

1 (2) REPORT.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
3 after the date of enactment of this Act, the At-
4 torney General shall submit to Congress a re-
5 port that includes a plan to execute a stream-
6 lined application process for grants under this
7 section under which an eligible local government
8 seeking a grant under this section can reason-
9 ably complete the application in not more than
10 2 hours.

11 (B) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan re-
12 quired under subparagraph (A) may include a
13 plan for—

14 (i) proactively providing eligible local
15 governments seeking a grant under this
16 section with information on the data such
17 eligible local governments will need to pre-
18 pare before beginning the grant applica-
19 tion; and

20 (ii) ensuring technical assistance is
21 available for eligible local governments
22 seeking a grant under this section before
23 and during the grant application process,
24 including through dedicated liaisons within
25 the Office.

1 (3) APPLICATIONS.—In selecting eligible local
2 governments to receive grants under this section, the
3 Director shall use the streamlined application pro-
4 cess described in paragraph (2)(A).

5 (e) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible local govern-
6 ment that receives a grant under this section may use
7 amounts from the grant only for—

8 (1) de-escalation training for law enforcement
9 officers;

10 (2) victim-centered training for law enforcement
11 officers in handling situations of domestic violence;

12 (3) evidence-based law enforcement safety
13 training, including training for—

14 (A) active shooter situations;

15 (B) the safe handling of illicit drugs and
16 precursor chemicals;

17 (C) rescue situations;

18 (D) high speed or pursuit driving;

19 (E) recognizing and countering ambush at-
20 tacks;

21 (F) contact with individuals with mental
22 health needs;

23 (G) contact with individuals with substance
24 use disorders;

25 (H) contact with veterans;

1 (I) contact with individuals with disabil-
2 ities;

3 (J) contact with vulnerable youth;

4 (K) contact with individuals who are vic-
5 tims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or
6 trafficking; or

7 (L) contact with individuals experiencing
8 homelessness or living in poverty;

9 (4) the offsetting of overtime costs associated
10 with scheduling issues relating to the participation
11 of a law enforcement officer in the training de-
12 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (3);

13 (5) a signing bonus for a law enforcement offi-
14 cer in an amount determined by the eligible local
15 government;

16 (6) a retention bonus for a law enforcement of-
17 ficer—

18 (A) in an amount determined by the eligi-
19 ble local government that does not exceed 20
20 percent of the salary of the law enforcement of-
21 ficer; and

22 (B) who—

23 (i) has been employed at the law en-
24 forcement agency for not fewer than 5
25 years; and

1 (ii) has not been found by an internal
2 investigation to have engaged in serious
3 misconduct;

4 (7) a stipend for the graduate education of law
5 enforcement officers in the area of mental health,
6 public health, or social work, which shall not exceed
7 the lesser of—

8 (A) \$10,000; or

9 (B) the amount the law enforcement offi-
10 cer pays towards such graduate education; and

11 (8) providing access to patient-centered behav-
12 ioral health services for law enforcement officers,
13 which may include resources for risk assessments,
14 evidence-based, trauma-informed care to treat post-
15 traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder,
16 peer support and counselor services and family sup-
17 ports, and the promotion of improved access to high
18 quality mental health care through telehealth.

19 (f) DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND
20 RETENTION BONUSES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
22 the date on which an eligible local government that
23 receives a grant under this section awards a signing
24 or retention bonus described in paragraph (5) or (6)
25 of subsection (e), the eligible local government shall

1 disclose to the Director and make publicly available
2 on a website of the eligible local government the
3 amount of such bonus.

4 (2) REPORT.—The Attorney General shall sub-
5 mit to the appropriate congressional committees an
6 annual report that includes each signing or retention
7 bonus disclosed under paragraph (1) during the pre-
8 ceding year.

9 (g) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded
10 by the Director under this section shall be subject to the
11 following accountability provisions:

12 (1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

13 (A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the
14 term “unresolved audit finding” means a find-
15 ing in the final audit report of the Inspector
16 General of the Department of Justice that the
17 audited grantee has used grant funds for an
18 unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallow-
19 able cost that is not closed or resolved within
20 12 months from the date when the final audit
21 report is issued.

22 (B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal
23 year beginning after the date of enactment of
24 this subsection, and in each fiscal year there-
25 after, the Inspector General of the Department

1 of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of
2 grants under this section to prevent waste,
3 fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The In-
4 spector General of the Department of Justice
5 shall determine the appropriate number of
6 grantees to be audited each year.

7 (C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient
8 of grant funds under this section that is found
9 to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be
10 eligible to receive grant funds under this section
11 during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after
12 the end of the 12-month period described in
13 subparagraph (A).

14 (D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under
15 this section, the Director shall give priority to
16 eligible local governments that did not have an
17 unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal
18 years before submitting an application for a
19 grant under this section.

20 (E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an eligible local
21 government is awarded grant funds under this
22 section during the 2-fiscal-year period during
23 which the eligible local government is barred
24 from receiving grants under subparagraph (C),
25 the Attorney General shall—

1 (i) deposit an amount equal to the
2 amount of the grant funds that were im-
3 properly awarded to the grantee into the
4 General Fund of the Treasury; and

5 (ii) seek to recoup the costs of the re-
6 payment to the fund from the grant recipi-
7 ent that was erroneously awarded grant
8 funds.

9 (2) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the
10 fiscal year during which audits commence under
11 paragraph (1)(B), the Attorney General shall submit
12 to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Com-
13 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the
14 Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on
15 Appropriations of the House of Representatives an
16 annual certification—

17 (A) indicating whether—

18 (i) all audits issued by the Office of
19 the Inspector General of the Department
20 of Justice under paragraph (1) have been
21 completed and reviewed by the appropriate
22 Assistant Attorney General or Director;

23 (ii) all mandatory exclusions required
24 under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued;
25 and

1 (iii) all reimbursements required
2 under paragraph (1)(E) have been made;
3 and

4 (B) that includes a list of any grant recipi-
5 ents excluded under paragraph (1) from the
6 previous year.

7 (h) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Director awards
9 a grant to an eligible local government under this
10 section, the Attorney General shall compare poten-
11 tial grant awards with other grants awarded by the
12 Attorney General to determine if grant awards are
13 or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

14 (2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards
15 grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose,
16 the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee
17 on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee
18 on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a
19 report that includes—

20 (A) a list of all such grants awarded, in-
21 cluding the total dollar amount of any such
22 grants awarded; and

23 (B) the reason the Attorney General
24 awarded multiple grants to the same applicant
25 for a similar purpose.

1 (i) FUNDING.—In carrying out this section, the Di-
2 rector—

3 (1) shall use amounts otherwise made available
4 to the Office; and

5 (2) may use not more than \$50,000,000 of such
6 amounts for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

