

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1161

To establish research, development, and dissemination programs to assist in collaborative efforts to prevent crime against senior citizens, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 1993

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. HAYES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAKER of Louisiana, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BLACKWELL, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas, Mr. GINGRICH, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. HYDE, Mr. KING, Mr. LANCASTER, Mr. LEVY, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MAZZOLI, Mrs. MEEK, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. WELDON, and Mr. WISE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish research, development, and dissemination programs to assist in collaborative efforts to prevent crime against senior citizens, 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 “National Triad Pro-
5 gram Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) senior citizens are among the most rapidly
4 growing segments of our society;

5 (2) currently, senior citizens comprise 15 per-
6 cent of our society, and predictions are that by the
7 turn of the century they will constitute 18 percent
8 of our Nation's population;

9 (3) senior citizens find themselves uniquely situ-
10 ated in our society, environmentally and physically;

11 (4) many senior citizens are experiencing in-
12 creased social isolation due to fragmented and dis-
13 tant familial relations, scattered associations, limited
14 access to transportation, and other insulating fac-
15 tors;

16 (5) physical conditions such as hearing loss,
17 poor eyesight, lessened agility, and chronic and de-
18 bilitating illnesses often contribute to a senior citi-
19 zen's susceptibility to criminal victimization;

20 (6) senior citizens are too frequently the victims
21 of abuse and neglect, violent crime, property crime,
22 consumer fraud, medical quackery, and confidence
23 games;

24 (7) studies have found that senior citizens that
25 are victims of violent crime are more likely to be

1 injured and require medical attention than are
2 younger victims;

3 (8) victimization data on crimes against senior
4 citizens are incomplete and out of date, and data
5 sources are partial, scattered, and not easily
6 obtained;

7 (9) although a few studies have attempted to
8 define and estimate the extent of abuse and neglect
9 of senior citizens, both in their homes and in institu-
10 tional settings, many experts believe that abuse and
11 neglect crimes are substantially underreported and
12 undetected;

13 (10) similarly, while some evidence suggests
14 that senior citizens may be targeted in a range of
15 fraudulent schemes, neither the Uniform Crime Re-
16 port nor the National Crime Survey collects data on
17 individual- or household-level fraud;

18 (11) many law enforcement agencies do not
19 have model practices for responding to the criminal
20 abuse of senior citizens;

21 (12) law enforcement officers and social service
22 providers come from different disciplines and fre-
23 quently bring different perspectives to the problem
24 of crimes against senior citizens;

1 (13) the differences in approaches can inhibit a
2 genuinely effective response;

3 (14) there are, however, a few efforts currently
4 under way that seek to forge partnerships to coordi-
5 nate criminal justice and social service approaches to
6 victimization of senior citizens;

7 (15) the Triad program, sponsored by the Na-
8 tional Sheriffs' Association (NSA), the International
9 Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the
10 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), is
11 one such effort; and

12 (16) recognizing that senior citizens have the
13 same fundamental desire as other members of our
14 society to live freely, without fear or restriction due
15 to the criminal element, the Federal Government
16 should seek to expand efforts to reduce crime
17 against this growing and uniquely vulnerable seg-
18 ment of our population.

19 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

20 The purposes of this Act are—

21 (1) to support a coordinated effort among law
22 enforcement and social service agencies to stem the
23 tide of violence against senior citizens and support
24 media and nonmedia strategies aimed at increasing
25 both public understanding of the problem and the

1 senior citizens' skills in preventing crime against
2 themselves and their property; and

3 (2) to address the problem of crime against
4 senior citizens in a systematic and effective manner
5 by promoting and expanding collaborative crime pre-
6 vention programs, such as the Triad model, that as-
7 sist law enforcement agencies and senior citizens in
8 implementing specific strategies for crime preven-
9 tion, victim assistance, citizen involvement, and pub-
10 lic education.

11 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND DISSEMINATION.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-
13 stitute of Justice shall conduct a qualitative and quan-
14 titative national assessment of—

15 (1) the nature and extent of crimes committed
16 against senior citizens and the effect of such crimes
17 on the victims;

18 (2) the numbers, extent, and impact of violent
19 crimes and nonviolent crimes (such as frauds and
20 “scams”) against senior citizens and the extent of
21 unreported crime;

22 (3) the collaborative needs of law enforcement,
23 health, and social service organizations, focusing on
24 prevention of crimes against senior citizens, to iden-

1 tify, investigate, and provide assistance to victims of
2 those crimes; and

3 (4) the development and growth of strategies to
4 respond effectively to the matters described in para-
5 graphs (1), (2), and (3).

6 (b) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The national as-
7 sessment made pursuant to subsection (a) shall address—

8 (1) the analysis and synthesis of data from a
9 broad range of sources in order to develop accurate
10 information on the nature and extent of crimes
11 against senior citizens, including identifying and
12 conducting such survey and other data collection ef-
13 forts as are needed and designing a strategy to keep
14 such information current over time;

15 (2) institutional and community responses to el-
16 derly victims of crime, focusing on the problems as-
17 sociated with fear of victimization, abuse of senior
18 citizens, and hard-to-reach senior citizens who are in
19 poor health, are living alone or without family near-
20 by, or living in high crime areas;

21 (3) special services and responses required by
22 elderly victims;

23 (4) whether the experience of senior citizens
24 with some service organizations differs markedly
25 from that of younger populations;

1 (5) the kinds of programs that have proven use-
2 ful in reducing victimization of senior citizens
3 through crime prevention activities and programs;

4 (6) the kinds of programs that contribute to
5 successful coordination among public sector agencies
6 and community organizations in reducing victimiza-
7 tion of senior citizens; and

8 (7) the research agenda needed to develop a
9 comprehensive understanding of the problems of
10 crimes against senior citizens, including the changes
11 that can be anticipated in the crimes themselves and
12 appropriate responses as the society increasingly
13 ages.

14 (c) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—In conducting
15 the assessment under subsection (a), the Director of the
16 National Institute of Justice shall draw upon the findings
17 of existing studies and avoid duplication of efforts that
18 have previously been made.

19 (d) DISSEMINATION.—Based on the results of the na-
20 tional assessment and analysis of successful or promising
21 strategies in dealing with the problems described in sub-
22 section (b) and other problems, including coalition efforts
23 such as the Triad programs described in sections 2 and
24 3, the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall
25 disseminate the results through reports, publications,

1 clearinghouse services, public service announcements, and
2 programs of evaluation, demonstration, training, and tech-
3 nical assistance.

4 **SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) AWARDS.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice
6 Assistance shall make grants to coalitions of local law en-
7 forcement agencies and senior citizens to assist in the de-
8 velopment of programs and execute field tests of particu-
9 larly promising strategies for crime prevention services
10 and related services based on the concepts of the Triad
11 model, which can then be evaluated and serve as the basis
12 for further demonstration and education programs.

13 (b) TRIAD COOPERATIVE MODEL.—(1) Subject to
14 paragraph (2), a pilot program funded under this section
15 shall consist of the Triad cooperative model developed by
16 the organizations described in section 2(15), which calls
17 for the participation of the sheriff, at least 1 police chief,
18 and a representative of at least 1 senior citizens' organiza-
19 tion within a county and may include participation by gen-
20 eral service coalitions of law enforcement, victim service,
21 and senior citizen advocate organizations.

22 (2) If there is not both a sheriff and a police chief
23 in a county or if the sheriff or a police chief do not partici-
24 pate, a pilot program funded under this section shall in-
25 clude in the place of the sheriff or police chief another

1 key law enforcement official in the county such as a local
2 prosecutor.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—A coalition or Triad program that
4 desires to establish a pilot program under this section
5 shall submit to the Director of the Bureau of Justice As-
6 sistance an application that includes—

7 (1) a description of the community and its sen-
8 ior citizen population;

9 (2) assurances that Federal funds received
10 under this part shall be used to provide additional
11 and appropriate education and services to the com-
12 munity's senior citizens;

13 (3) a description of the extent of involvement of
14 each organizational component (chief, sheriff (or
15 other law enforcement official), and senior organiza-
16 tion representative) and focus of the Triad program;

17 (4) a comprehensive plan including—

18 (A) a description of the crime problems
19 facing senior citizens and need for expanded
20 law enforcement and victim assistance services;

21 (B) a description of the types of projects
22 to be developed or expanded;

23 (C) a plan for an evaluation of the results
24 of Triad endeavors;

1 (D) a description of the resources (includ-
2 ing matching funds, in-kind services, and other
3 resources) available in the community to imple-
4 ment the Triad development or expansion;

5 (E) a description of the gaps that cannot
6 be filled with existing resources;

7 (F) an explanation of how the requested
8 grant will be used to fill those gaps; and

9 (G) a description of the means and meth-
10 ods the applicant will use to reduce criminal
11 victimization of older persons; and

12 (5) funding requirements for implementing a
13 comprehensive plan.

14 (d) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT AWARDS.—The Direc-
15 tor of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall attempt, to
16 the extent practicable, to achieve an equitable geographic
17 distribution of grant awards for pilot programs authorized
18 under this Act.

19 (e) POST-GRANT PERIOD REPORT.—A grant recipi-
20 ent under this section shall, not later than 6 months after
21 the conclusion of the grant period, submit to the Director
22 of the Bureau of Justice Assistance a report that—

23 (1) describes the composition of organizations
24 that participated in the pilot program;

1 (2) identifies problem areas encountered during
2 the course of the pilot program;

3 (3) provides data comparing the types and fre-
4 quency of criminal activity before and after the
5 grant period and the effect of such criminal activity
6 on senior citizens in the community; and

7 (4) describes the grant recipient's plans and
8 goals for continuance of the Triad program after the
9 grant period.

10 **SEC. 6. TRAINING ASSISTANCE, EVALUATION, AND DISSEMI-**
11 **NATION AWARDS.**

12 In conjunction with the national assessment under
13 section 4—

14 (1) the Director of the Bureau of Justice As-
15 sistance shall make awards to organizations with
16 demonstrated ability to provide training and tech-
17 nical assistance in establishing crime prevention pro-
18 grams based on the Triad model, for purposes of
19 aiding in the establishment and expansion of pilot
20 programs under this section; and

21 (2) the Director of the National Institute of
22 Justice shall make awards to research organizations,
23 for the purposes of—

24 (A) evaluating the effectiveness of selected
25 pilot programs; and

1 (B) conducting the research and develop-
2 ment identified through the national assessment
3 as being critical; and

4 (3) the Director of the Bureau of Justice As-
5 sistance shall make awards to public service adver-
6 tising coalitions, for the purposes of mounting a pro-
7 gram of public service advertisements to increase
8 public awareness and understanding of the issues
9 surrounding crimes against senior citizens and pro-
10 moting ideas or programs to prevent them.

11 **SEC. 7. REPORT.**

12 The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and
13 the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall sub-
14 mit to Congress an annual report (which may be included
15 with the report submitted under section 102(b) of title I
16 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
17 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3712(b)) describing the results of the
18 pilot programs conducted under section 5.

19 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated—

21 (1) \$2,000,000 to the Bureau of Justice Assist-
22 ance for the purpose of making Triad pilot program
23 awards in that amount under section 5;

24 (2) \$1,000,000 to the Bureau of Justice Assist-
25 ance for the purpose of funding the national training

1 and technical assistance effort under sections 4 and
2 6;

3 (3) \$1,000,000 to the Bureau of Justice Assist-
4 ance for the purpose of developing public service an-
5 nouncements under sections 4 and 6;

6 (4) \$2,000,000 to the National Institute of Jus-
7 tice for the purposes of conducting the national as-
8 sessment, evaluating pilot programs, and carrying
9 out the research agenda under sections 4 and 6; and

10 (5) to the extent that funds are not otherwise
11 available for the purpose, such sums as are nec-
12 essary to pay the administrative costs of carrying
13 out this Act.

○