

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1069

To provide Federal coordination and assistance in preventing gang violence.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Mr. BACA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To provide Federal coordination and assistance in preventing gang violence.

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 “Mynisha’s Law”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds—

7 (1) with an estimated 24,500 gangs operating  
8 within the United States, gang violence and drug  
9 trafficking remain serious problems throughout the

1 country, causing injury and death to innocent vic-  
2 tims, often children;

3 (2) on November 13, 2005, a gang-related dis-  
4 pute broke out in San Bernardino, California, and  
5 gunfire sprayed an apartment building, killing 11-  
6 year old Mynisha Crenshaw and seriously wounding  
7 her 14-year old sister as they ate Sunday dinner  
8 with their family;

9 (3) this tragic shooting symbolizes the struggle  
10 that so many communities across the United States,  
11 like San Bernardino, face in combating gang vio-  
12 lence, and serves as a reminder of the nationwide  
13 problem of protecting children from senseless vio-  
14 lence;

15 (4) according to the National Drug Threat As-  
16 sessment, criminal street gangs are responsible for  
17 the distribution of much of the cocaine, meth-  
18 amphetamine, heroin, and other illegal drugs  
19 throughout the United States;

20 (5) the Federal Government has made an in-  
21 creased commitment to the suppression of gang vio-  
22 lence through enhanced law enforcement and crimi-  
23 nal penalties; and

24 (6) more Federal resources and coordination  
25 are needed to reduce gang violence through proven

1 and proactive prevention and intervention programs  
2 that focus on keeping at-risk youth in school and out  
3 of the criminal justice system.

4 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION AS A COMPREHENSIVE GANG PRE-**  
5 **VENTION AND RELIEF AREA.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—A unit of local government, city,  
7 county, tribal government, or a group of counties (whether  
8 located in 1 or more States) may submit an application  
9 to the Attorney General for designation as a Comprehen-  
10 sive Gang Prevention and Relief Area.

11 (b) CRITERIA.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall  
13 establish criteria for reviewing applications sub-  
14 mitted under subsection (a).

15 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing criteria  
16 under subsection (a) and evaluating an application  
17 for designation as a Comprehensive Gang Prevention  
18 and Relief Area, the Attorney General shall con-  
19 sider—

20 (A) the current and predicted levels of  
21 gang crime activity in the area;

22 (B) the extent to which violent crime in  
23 the area appears to be related to criminal gang  
24 activity;

1 (C) the extent to which the area is already  
2 engaged in local or regional collaboration re-  
3 garding, and coordination of, gang prevention  
4 activities; and

5 (D) such other criteria as the Attorney  
6 General determines to be appropriate.

7 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to coordinate Federal as-  
9 sistance to Comprehensive Gang Prevention and Relief  
10 Areas, the Attorney General shall establish an Interagency  
11 Gang Prevention Task Force (in this Act referred to as  
12 the “Task Force”), consisting of a representative from—

13 (1) the Department of Justice;

14 (2) the Department of Education;

15 (3) the Department of Labor;

16 (4) the Department of Health and Human  
17 Services; and

18 (5) the Department of Housing and Urban De-  
19 velopment.

20 (b) COORDINATION.—For each Comprehensive Gang  
21 Prevention and Relief Area designated by the Attorney  
22 General under section 3, the Task Force shall—

23 (1) coordinate the activities of the Federal Gov-  
24 ernment to create a comprehensive gang prevention  
25 response, focusing on early childhood intervention,

1 at-risk youth intervention, literacy, employment,  
2 community policing, and comprehensive community-  
3 based programs such as Operation Cease Fire; and

4 (2) coordinate its efforts with local and regional  
5 gang prevention efforts.

6 (c) PROGRAMS.—The Task Force shall prioritize the  
7 needs of Comprehensive Gang Prevention and Relief Areas  
8 for funding under—

9 (1) the Child Care and Development Block  
10 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.);

11 (2) the Even Start programs under subpart 3  
12 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary  
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.);

14 (3) the Healthy Start Initiative under section  
15 330H of the Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C.  
16 254c–8);

17 (4) the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et  
18 seq.);

19 (5) the 21st Century Community Learning Cen-  
20 ters program under part B of title IV of the Ele-  
21 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
22 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.);

23 (6) the Job Corps program under subtitle C of  
24 title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29  
25 U.S.C. 2881 et seq.);

1           (7) the community development block grant  
2 program under title I of the Housing and Commu-  
3 nity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et  
4 seq.);

5           (8) the Gang Resistance Education and Train-  
6 ing projects under subtitle X of title III of the Vio-  
7 lent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of  
8 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13921);

9           (9) any program administered by the Office of  
10 Community Oriented Policing Services;

11           (10) the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant  
12 program under part R of title I of the Omnibus  
13 Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42  
14 U.S.C. 3796ee et seq.);

15           (11) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice As-  
16 sistance Grant Program under subpart 1 of part E  
17 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
18 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.); and

19           (12) any other program that the Task Force  
20 determines to be appropriate.

21 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1  
23 of each year, the Task Force shall submit to Con-  
24 gress and the Attorney General a report on the  
25 funding needs and programmatic outcomes for each

1 area designated as a Comprehensive Gang Preven-  
2 tion and Relief Area.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph  
4 (1) shall include—

5 (A) an evidence-based analysis of the best  
6 practices and outcomes among the areas des-  
7 igned as Comprehensive Gang Prevention and  
8 Relief Areas; and

9 (B) an analysis of the adequacy of Federal  
10 funding to meet the needs of each area des-  
11 igned as a Comprehensive Gang Prevention  
12 and Relief Area and, if the Task Force identi-  
13 fies any programmatic shortfalls in addressing  
14 gang prevention, a request for new funding or  
15 reprogramming of existing funds to meet such  
16 shortfalls.

17 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
19 as are necessary to meet any needs identified by the Task  
20 Force or in any report submitted under section 4(d)(1).

○