

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 854

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate the effects of youth violence in eligible urban communities by providing violence-prevention education, mentoring, counseling, and mental health services to children and adolescents in such communities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. LEE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. CASTOR, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BACA, and Mr. ELLISON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate the effects of youth violence in eligible urban communities by providing violence-prevention education, mentoring, counseling, and mental health services to children and adolescents in such communities.

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 “City Youth Violence  
5 Recovery Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds the following:

8            (1) The mental health of young people is essen-  
9            tial to their overall well-being. Mental health affects  
10            how young people think, feel, and act; their ability  
11            to learn and engage in relationships; their self-es-  
12            teem; their ability to evaluate situations and make  
13            choices; and their ability to handle stress, relate to  
14            other people, and acquire the skills and training  
15            needed for adulthood.

16            (2) Each year many children and adolescents  
17            sustain injuries from violence, lose friends or family  
18            members because of violence, or are adversely af-  
19            fected by witnessing violence.

20            (3) Youth violence, perpetrated both by and  
21            against young people, results in enormous physical,  
22            emotional, social, and economic consequences.

23            (4) The National Institutes of Health has found  
24            that inner-city children experience the greatest expo-  
25            sure to violence, and youngsters who have been ex-

1 posed to community violence are more likely to ex-  
2 hibit aggressive behavior or depression within the  
3 following year.

4 (5) Any event that can cause a person to feel  
5 fear, helplessness, horror, and a sense that life or  
6 safety is in danger puts a person, especially children,  
7 at risk for posttraumatic stress.

8 (6) Many cities lack the resources to provide  
9 the appropriate youth counseling and therapy serv-  
10 ices to minimize the long-term emotional harm of  
11 community violence.

12 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO PREVENT OR ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS**  
13 **OF YOUTH VIOLENCE.**

14 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human  
15 Services, in consultation with the Attorney General of the  
16 United States, may award grants to eligible entities to pre-  
17 vent or alleviate the effects of youth violence in eligible  
18 urban communities by providing violence-prevention edu-  
19 cation, mentoring, counseling, and mental health services  
20 to children and adolescents in such communities.

21 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
22 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that  
23 agree to use the grant in one or more eligible urban com-  
24 munities that lack the monetary or other resources to ad-  
25 dress youth violence.

1 (c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not make a  
2 grant to an eligible entity under this section unless the  
3 entity agrees to use not more than 15 percent of the funds  
4 provided through the grant for violence-prevention edu-  
5 cation.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “eligible entity” means a partner-  
8 ship between a State mental health authority and  
9 one or more local public or private providers, such  
10 as a city agency, State agency, educational institu-  
11 tion, or nonprofit or for-profit organization.

12 (2) The term “eligible urban community”  
13 means an urban community with a high or increas-  
14 ing incidence of youth violence.

15 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
16 of Health and Human Services.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
18 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
19 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

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