

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5512

To amend the Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to add gender-responsive services to the list of authorized grant purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2016

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to add gender-responsive services to the list of authorized grant 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Improving the Juvenile Justice System for Girls Act of
6 2016”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) The proportion of girls entering the justice
2 system has increased steadily over the past several
3 decades, and girls are among the fastest growing
4 segment of the juvenile justice population. In 1991,
5 around 20 percent of the juvenile arrests were girls.
6 By 2012, girls represented nearly 30 percent.

7 (2) Girls' pathways into juvenile justice involve-
8 ment are distinct from boys' pathways. Girls account
9 for a much larger proportion of nonviolent status of-
10 fenders than delinquency offenders (40 percent com-
11 pared to 14 percent, respectively).

12 (3) Girls are, on average, younger than boys
13 when they enter the juvenile justice system and fre-
14 quently experience multiple traumatic events.

15 (4) The trauma of untreated physical and sex-
16 ual abuse results in lifetime consequences for girls.
17 These consequences include a higher risk for a num-
18 ber of negative social and health outcomes such as
19 higher mortality rates, a variety of psychiatric prob-
20 lems, dysfunctional and violent relationships, poor
21 educational achievement, less stable work histories,
22 increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases and
23 early pregnancy, substance abuse or addiction, and
24 increased reliance on social services as compared to
25 non-delinquent girls.

1 (5) A growing body of evidence suggests that
2 girls who enter the juvenile justice system have
3 equal if not higher rates of mental health issues
4 than boys who enter the system.

5 (6) Current research and data have shown that
6 gender-responsive, strength-based programming pro-
7 viding trauma-informed care and trauma-specific
8 services is the most effective means of preventing ju-
9 venile offenses and reducing recidivism.

10 **SEC. 2. INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR LOCAL DELINQUENCY**
11 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

12 The second title V of the Juvenile Justice and Delin-
13 quency Prevention Act of 1974 (relating to Incentive
14 Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs, as
15 added by Public Law 102–586 and amended by Public
16 Law 107–273) is amended—

17 (1) by amending section 502 (42 U.S.C. 5781)
18 to read as follows:

19 **“SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.**

20 “In this title:

21 “(1) STATE ADVISORY GROUP.—The term
22 ‘State advisory group’ means the advisory group ap-
23 pointed by the chief executive officer of a State
24 under a plan described in section 223(a).

1 “(2) GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICES.—The
2 term ‘gender-responsive services’ means practices or
3 evidence-based services that—

4 “(A) comprehensively address the unique
5 social, emotional, and physical, mental, and be-
6 havioral health needs of girls in the juvenile jus-
7 tice system through the development or im-
8 provement of programs, treatment, counseling,
9 and resources, and the selection and training of
10 staff, in a manner that reflects an under-
11 standing of—

12 “(i) the unique pathways of girls into
13 the juvenile justice system;

14 “(ii) the need for interventions that
15 address experiences of girls in the juvenile
16 justice system, including histories of phys-
17 ical, emotional, and sexual abuse, violence,
18 unhealthy family relationships, and sub-
19 stance abuse;

20 “(iii) the social and cultural factors
21 affecting girls in the juvenile justice system
22 and girls who are at risk of entering the
23 juvenile justice system; and

24 “(iv) the increased risk of unplanned
25 pregnancy or sexually transmitted infec-

1 tions among girls in the juvenile justice
2 system; and

3 “(B) includes trauma-informed services
4 and trauma-specific interventions, that are evi-
5 dence-based and research based.

6 “(3) TRAUMA-INFORMED SERVICES.—The term
7 ‘trauma-informed services’ means services that—

8 “(A) address the neurological, biological,
9 psychological, and social effects of traumatic
10 stress on those who have experienced such
11 stressors;

12 “(B) provide youth, staff, and family mem-
13 bers with psychoeducational resources to en-
14 hance their understanding of trauma exposure,
15 the impact of traumatic stress, and interven-
16 tions to address post-traumatic reactions;

17 “(C) engage in efforts to strengthen the
18 resilience and protective factors of those who
19 have experienced traumatic stress;

20 “(D) include trauma-informed interven-
21 tions that are based on an understanding of the
22 triggers associated with post-traumatic stress,
23 and are designed to provide support to, and
24 avoid re-traumatization of, individuals who have
25 experienced traumatic stressors;

1 “(E) emphasize continuity of care and col-
2 laboration among the providers of services and
3 families of youth who have experienced trau-
4 matic stress; and

5 “(F) universally screen for signs of trauma
6 and traumatic stress, with additional assess-
7 ment and treatment performed by a mental
8 health provider with specific training in, and
9 qualified to provide, trauma-specific interven-
10 tions for those individuals who have experienced
11 traumatic stress.

12 “(4) TRAUMA-SPECIFIC INTERVENTION.—The
13 term ‘trauma-specific intervention’ means an empiri-
14 cally supported therapeutic intervention designed to
15 reduce or prevent the adverse impact of post-trau-
16 matic stress symptoms and enhance recovery and re-
17 silience for persons who have experienced traumatic
18 stressors.”;

19 (2) in section 504 (42 U.S.C. 5783)—

20 (A) in subsection (a)—

21 (i) by striking “and” after the semi-
22 colon in paragraph (7);

23 (ii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
24 paragraph (9); and

1 (iii) by inserting after paragraph (7)
2 the following:

3 “(8) gender-responsive services; and”; and

4 (B) in subsection (b)—

5 (i) in paragraph (2), by inserting “,
6 including a description of how the funds
7 made available under this section will in-
8 crease the effectiveness of such plan and
9 the activities to be carried out under such
10 plan” before the semicolon; and

11 (ii) in paragraph (3), by inserting “,
12 including a description of how the funds
13 made available under this section will in-
14 crease the effectiveness of such plan and
15 the activities to be carried out under such
16 plan” before the semicolon; and

17 (3) in section 505 (42 U.S.C. 5784)—

18 (A) by striking “and” before “2008”; and

19 (B) by inserting before the period at the
20 end the following: “2017, 2018, 2019, 2020,
21 2021, and 2022”.

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