

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2703

To authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2018

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, 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 “Project Safe Neighbor-  
5 hoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For the purposes of this Act—

8 (1) the term “firearms offenses” means an of-  
9 fense under section 922 or 924 of title 18, United  
10 States Code;

1           (2) the term “Program” means the Project  
2       Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program estab-  
3       lished under section 3; and

4           (3) the term “transnational organized crime  
5       group” has the meaning given such term in section  
6       36(k)(6) of the State Department Basic Authorities  
7       Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(6)).

8       **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

9       The Attorney General of the United States is author-  
10      ized to establish and carry out a program, to be known  
11      as the “Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Pro-  
12      gram” within the Office of Justice Programs at the De-  
13      partment of Justice.

14      **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

15      (a) PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS BLOCK GRANT  
16      PROGRAM.—The purpose of the Program is to foster and  
17      improve existing partnerships between Federal, State, and  
18      local agencies, including the United States Attorney in  
19      each Federal judicial district, entities representing mem-  
20      bers of the community affected by increased violence, vic-  
21      tims’ advocates, and researchers to create safer neighbor-  
22      hoods through sustained reductions in violent crimes by—

23           (1) developing and executing comprehensive  
24      strategic plans to reduce violent crimes, including  
25      the enforcement of gun laws, and prioritizing efforts

1 focused on identified subsets of individuals or orga-  
2 nizations responsible for increasing violence in a par-  
3 ticular geographic area;

4 (2) developing evidence-based and data-driven  
5 intervention and prevention initiatives, including ju-  
6 venile justice projects and activities which may in-  
7 clude street-level outreach, conflict mediation, provi-  
8 sion of treatment and social services, and the chang-  
9 ing of community norms, in order to reduce violence;  
10 and

11 (3) collecting data on outcomes achieved  
12 through the Program, including the effect on the  
13 violent crime rate, incarceration rate, and recidivism  
14 rate of the jurisdiction.

15 (b) ADDITIONAL PURPOSE AREAS.—In addition to  
16 the purpose described in subsection (a), the Attorney Gen-  
17 eral may use funds authorized under this Act for any of  
18 the following purposes—

19 (1) competitive and evidence-based programs to  
20 reduce gun crime and gang violence;

21 (2) the Edward Byrne criminal justice innova-  
22 tion program;

23 (3) community-based violence prevention initia-  
24 tives; or

1           (4) gang and youth violence education, preven-  
2           tion and intervention, and related activities.

3 **SEC. 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall  
6 promulgate rules to create, carry out, and administer the  
7 Program in accordance with this section.

8           (b) FUNDS TO BE DIRECTED TO LOCAL CONTROL.—  
9 Amounts made available as grants under the Program  
10 shall be, to the greatest extent practicable, locally con-  
11 trolled to address problems that are identified locally.

12           (c) REGIONAL GANG TASK FORCES.—Thirty percent  
13 of the amounts made available as grants under the Pro-  
14 gram each fiscal year shall be granted to established Re-  
15 gional Gang Task Forces in regions experiencing a signifi-  
16 cant or increased presence of, or high levels of activity  
17 from, transnational organized crime groups posing threats  
18 to community safety in terms of violent crime, firearms  
19 offenses, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and other  
20 crimes.

21           (d) PRIORITY.—Amounts made available as grants  
22 under the Program shall be used to prioritize the inves-  
23 tigation and prosecution of individuals who have an aggra-  
24 vating or leadership role in a criminal organization.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-  
3 ney General to carry out the Program \$50,000,000 for  
4 each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

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