

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5251

To direct the Attorney General to establish a task force to study the causes of violence against and involving law enforcement and make recommendations on improving community safety.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 22, 2019

Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 direct the Attorney General to establish a task force to study the causes of violence against and involving law enforcement and make recommendations on improving community safety.

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 “Improving Community  
5 Safety Task Force Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY TASK FORCE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General shall  
3 establish a community safety task force (hereinafter in  
4 this Act referred to as the “task force”) within 180 days  
5 after the date of enactment of this Act with the goal of  
6 promoting community safety.

7 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 (1) COMPOSITION.—The task force shall include  
9 a chairperson and twelve members selected by the  
10 Attorney General in consultation with the Speaker of  
11 the House of Representatives, the minority leader of  
12 the House of Representatives, the majority leader of  
13 the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate in  
14 accordance with the following:

15 (A) REPRESENTATION.—Membership shall  
16 include at least one representative of:

17 (i) Community organizations.

18 (ii) Non-governmental civil rights or-  
19 ganizations.

20 (iii) State law enforcement.

21 (iv) Federal law enforcement.

22 (v) Firefighters.

23 (vi) Emergency medical technicians.

24 (vii) Security officers from educational  
25 institutions.

1           (viii) An institution of higher edu-  
2           cation (as such term is defined in section  
3           101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965)  
4           that is determined by the Attorney General  
5           to have expertise in law enforcement re-  
6           search.

7           (ix) Local governments, including one  
8           municipal and one county law enforcement  
9           representative.

10           (B) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In selecting  
11           membership, the Attorney General shall make  
12           sure the task force includes representatives  
13           from all regions of the country, and from rural,  
14           urban, and suburban communities.

15           (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Attorney General shall  
16           appoint the chairperson of the task force from  
17           among the members.

18           (3) TERM OF MEMBERSHIP.—Members of the  
19           task force shall serve until the task force is termi-  
20           nated. The chairperson shall serve until the Attorney  
21           General appoints a new chairperson.

22           (4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the task  
23           force may be allowed travel expenses, including per  
24           diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for  
25           employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter

1 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from  
2 their homes or regular places of business in the per-  
3 formance of services for the task force.

4 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the task force are as fol-  
5 lows:

6 (1) To study violence against and involving law  
7 enforcement and first responders.

8 (2) To make recommendations on steps that  
9 can be taken to limit such violence, including assess-  
10 ing—

11 (A) the causes for, the frequency of, and  
12 the types of attacks against law enforcement of-  
13 ficers and other first responders; and

14 (B) the causes for, the frequency of, and  
15 the types of law enforcement’s use of deadly  
16 force.

17 (3) To make recommendations about—

18 (A) how to prevent attacks against law en-  
19 forcement officers and other first responders;  
20 and

21 (B) how to minimize use of deadly force by  
22 law enforcement.

23 (d) POWERS OF THE TASK FORCE.—

24 (1) HEARINGS.—The task force may, for the  
25 purpose of carrying out this section, hold hearings,

1 sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and  
2 receive evidence as the task force considers appro-  
3 priate.

4 (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any  
5 member or agent of the task force may, if authorized  
6 by the task force, take any action which the task  
7 force is authorized to take by this section.

8 (3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—Subject to ap-  
9 plicable privacy laws and regulations, the task force  
10 may secure directly from any department or agency  
11 of the United States information necessary to enable  
12 it to carry out this section. Upon request of the  
13 chairperson of the task force, the head of that de-  
14 partment or agency shall furnish that information to  
15 the task force.

16 (4) MAILS.—The task force may use the United  
17 States mails in the same manner and under the  
18 same conditions as other departments and agencies  
19 of the United States.

20 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—  
21 Upon the request of the task force, the Adminis-  
22 trator of General Services shall provide to the task  
23 force, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative  
24 support services necessary for the task force to carry  
25 out its duties under this section.

1           (6) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—To the extent or  
2           in the amounts provided in advance in appropriation  
3           Acts, the task force may contract with and com-  
4           pensate government agencies and private entities or  
5           persons for services necessary to carry out its duties  
6           under this section.

7           (e) OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES.—

8           (1) INITIAL MEETING.—The task force shall  
9           meet not later than 30 days after the date on which  
10          a majority of the members of the task force have  
11          been appointed.

12          (2) MEETINGS.—The task force shall alternate  
13          its meeting locations between the geographic regions  
14          reflected in the task force membership.

15          (3) VOTING.—Each member of the task force  
16          shall have one vote.

17          (4) RULES AND PROCEDURES.—Any member of  
18          the task force may propose to create or alter existing  
19          operating rules and procedures consistent with the  
20          functions of the task force. Any change to the oper-  
21          ating rules and procedures shall be adopted only  
22          upon a majority vote of the task force.

23          (5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The task force shall  
24          adopt recommendations under subsection (c)(2) and  
25          subsection (c)(4) only upon a majority vote.

1           (6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of  
2 the task force shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser  
3 number of members may hold meetings.

4 (f) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

5           (1) DIRECTOR.—The task force may appoint  
6 and set the pay of a director.

7           (2) STAFF.—The director may appoint not  
8 more than 10 staff personnel as the director con-  
9 siders appropriate.

10           (3) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
11 LAWS.—The staff of the task force shall be ap-  
12 pointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United  
13 States Code, governing appointments in the competi-  
14 tive service, and shall be paid in accordance with the  
15 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chap-  
16 ter 53 of that title relating to classification and Gen-  
17 eral Schedule pay rates.

18           (4) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The task  
19 force and the director, acting with the approval of  
20 the task force, may procure temporary and intermit-  
21 tent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United  
22 States Code.

23           (5) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon the  
24 request of the director, the head of any Federal de-  
25 partment or agency may detail, on a reimbursable

1 basis, any of the personnel of that department or  
2 agency to the task force to assist it in carrying out  
3 its duties under this section.

4 (g) DURATION.—The task force established under  
5 subsection (a) shall terminate not later than two years  
6 after the date of which the task force is established under  
7 such subsection.

8 (h) REPORTS.—

9 (1) SUBMITTAL OF REPORT.—Not later than  
10 one year after the date of the initial meeting of the  
11 task force, the Attorney General shall submit to  
12 Congress a report on the recommendations of the  
13 task force.

14 (2) ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION.—Not  
15 later than 120 days after submission of the report  
16 in subsection (h)(1), the Attorney General shall sub-  
17 mit to Congress a report containing the assessment  
18 of the Attorney General regarding the implementa-  
19 tion of the recommendations of the task force.

20 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
21 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for the period  
22 of fiscal years 2019 through 2020 to carry out this sec-  
23 tion.

24 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:



1           (1) CRIME OF VIOLENCE.—The term “crime of  
2 violence” means any Federal, State, or local offense  
3 that has as an element the use, attempted use, or  
4 threatened use of physical force against the person  
5 of another.

6           (2) DEADLY FORCE.—The term “deadly force”  
7 means force reasonably anticipated and intended to  
8 create a substantial likelihood of causing death or  
9 great bodily injury.

10          (3) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term “first re-  
11 sponder” means an individual with specialized train-  
12 ing, the duties of whose position are primarily to  
13 provide on-site assistance including Federal, State,  
14 and local governmental and nongovernmental fire-  
15 fighter, emergency medical technician, and para-  
16 medic personnel.

17          (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term  
18 “law enforcement officer” means an individual, the  
19 duties of whose position are primarily the investiga-  
20 tion, apprehension, or detention of individuals sus-  
21 pected or convicted of offenses against criminal or  
22 civil laws, including police, corrections, probation,  
23 parole, and judicial officers.

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