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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To encourage States to provide rights to survivors of violence, and for other purposes

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SIMON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To encourage States to provide rights to survivors of violence, 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 “Crime Survivor Sup-
5 port and Stability Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. RIGHTS OF SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE.**

7 It is the sense of the Congress that each State should
8 review and revise, if necessary, its laws to ensure that sur-
9 vivors of violence receive the healing, safety, and support

1 they require after a victimization, taking into account the
2 following:

3 (1) A survivor of violence should be accorded
4 the following rights:

5 (A) A right to trusted and accessible com-
6 munity-based help to heal from trauma, includ-
7 ing for adult and minor survivors.

8 (B) A right to programs that offer emer-
9 gency and flexible financial help quickly, with-
10 out burdensome administrative or exclusionary
11 restrictions.

12 (C) A right to stable housing, including the
13 right to break a lease without penalty, or be
14 protected from eviction.

15 (D) A right to paid and job-protected leave
16 time off from work to address safety, medical,
17 financial, emotional, and other recovery, heal-
18 ing, and safety needs related to the victimiza-
19 tion.

20 (E) A right to debt forgiveness and finan-
21 cial recovery in the case of a debt that is re-
22 lated to the victimization.

23 (F) A right to legal assistance related to
24 housing, job, immigration, or family legal
25 issues.

1 (G) A right to request and access commu-
2 nity-based alternative accountability or resolu-
3 tion processes, instead of prosecution in the
4 criminal justice system.

5 (H) A right to protection from arrest or
6 conviction for survivors criminalized as a result
7 of victimization, and to mitigated sentencing
8 and record clearance for convicted survivors
9 whose offense was related to trauma.

10 (2) The rights of a survivor of violence under
11 paragraph (1) should not be contingent on or in any
12 way limited or restricted by the following:

13 (A) A condition that the survivor or any-
14 one else has reported the victimization to a law
15 enforcement agency, court, or other local, State,
16 or Federal agency designated to investigate or
17 prosecute crimes, abuse, or violence.

18 (B) A condition that the survivor or a fam-
19 ily member of the survivor cooperate with a law
20 enforcement agency, court, or other local, State,
21 or Federal agency designated to investigate or
22 prosecute crimes, abuse, or violence.

23 (C) A survivor's race, religion, national ori-
24 gin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gen-
25 der identity, marital status, immigration status,

1 housing status, economic status, or family sta-
2 tus.

3 (D) Whether a survivor has an arrest or
4 conviction record, is or has been incarcerated,
5 or is or has been under any form of correctional
6 supervision.

7 (E) Any allegation that the survivor con-
8 tributed to the survivor's own victimization.

9 (F) The identity of the person who com-
10 mitted the act of the violence (including wheth-
11 er the person is a law enforcement officer) or
12 the relationship of the person to the victim.

13 **SEC. 3. FLEXIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVORS OF VIO-**
14 **LENCE.**

15 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Attorney
16 General, acting through the Director of the Office for Vic-
17 tims of Crime of the Department of Justice (in this section
18 referred to as the “Director”), is authorized to award
19 grants to community-based organizations for the purpose
20 of establishing assistance funds to distribute direct cash
21 assistance to survivors of violence, with the goal of improv-
22 ing safety, healing, and financial stability for survivors of
23 violence, and family members of survivors of violence.

24 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible community-based or-
25 ganization seeking a grant under this section shall submit

1 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
2 taining such information as the Director may reasonably
3 require, including the following:

4 (1) A description of the organization's history
5 serving one or more of the groups described in sub-
6 section (e)(4).

7 (2) A description of how the community or com-
8 munities the organization serves are impacted by vi-
9 olence and incarceration.

10 (3) The estimated number of survivors of vio-
11 lence or family members of survivors of violence the
12 organization currently serves.

13 (4) The estimated number of survivors of vio-
14 lence or family members of survivors of violence to
15 whom the organization anticipates it will distribute
16 grant funds.

17 (5) How the organization plans to distribute
18 cash assistance to survivors of violence or family
19 members of survivors of violence to meet their imme-
20 diate financial needs.

21 (6) How the organization plans to minimize the
22 burden on survivors of violence and their family
23 members to provide excessive documentation or pa-
24 perwork.

1 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—A community-based organization
2 shall be eligible to apply for a grant under this section
3 if the organization has a history of serving survivors of
4 violence, and the majority of people the organization, or
5 a project within the organization that will administer the
6 grant, serves are survivors of violence.

7 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—In administering the grant
8 program under this section, the Director shall do all of
9 the following:

10 (1) Strive to minimize the paperwork burden on
11 grant applicants and grantees.

12 (2) Strive to develop application, awards, and
13 reporting processes that are accessible to commu-
14 nity-based organizations without past experience re-
15 ceiving a Federal grant award.

16 (3) Develop a plan to publicize the grant pro-
17 gram in advance of an application deadline.

18 (4) Provide technical assistance and training
19 opportunities to applicants and grantees.

20 (5) Develop tools to support applicants applying
21 for a grant under this section, including, templates
22 and sample applications, which shall be posted
23 prominently on the website of the Office for Victims
24 of Crimes.

1 (6) Develop a website where survivors of vio-
2 lence and members of the public can locate contact
3 information for community-based organizations re-
4 ceiving grants under this section.

5 (e) PRIORITY.—When considering grant applications,
6 the Director shall give priority to community-based orga-
7 nizations that—

8 (1) are located in, serve, and directly employ
9 members of communities that experience dispropor-
10 tionately high rates of gun violence and imprison-
11 ment, as compared to such rates nationally, as evi-
12 denced by, during the prior 3-year period—

13 (A) disproportionately high rates of indi-
14 viduals who have been injured or killed by a
15 firearm, as compared to such rates nationally;
16 and

17 (B) disproportionately high rates of indi-
18 viduals who have been arrested or sent to jail
19 or prison, as compared to such rates nationally;

20 (2) are led by, or employ, individuals who are
21 survivors of violence or who are formerly incarcerated;
22 ated;

23 (3) are led by individuals who have proven ties
24 to the community in which the organization oper-
25 ates;

1 (4) have a history of providing services focusing
2 on vulnerable survivors of violence, including—

3 (A) survivors of color;

4 (B) survivors with disabilities;

5 (C) survivors who are transgender or gen-
6 der nonconforming;

7 (D) survivors who have faced dispropor-
8 tionate police contact;

9 (E) survivors who are formerly incarcer-
10 ated or who have past arrests or convictions;

11 (F) immigrant survivors;

12 (G) Native American survivors;

13 (H) survivors who are unhoused;

14 (I) survivors of firearm injuries;

15 (J) survivors who have lost a family mem-
16 ber to homicide;

17 (K) low-income survivors; or

18 (L) geographically underserved survivors;

19 and

20 (5) have leadership that reflects the racial and
21 ethnic diversity of the community in which the orga-
22 nization operates.

23 (f) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In selecting grant re-
24 cipients, the Director shall ensure that, collectively, grant-
25 ees represent a diversity of geographic areas.

1 (g) USE OF FUNDS.—

2 (1) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—An organiza-
3 tion receiving a grant under this section may use the
4 funds as follows:

5 (A) Distributing unrestricted cash assist-
6 ance to survivors of violence to meet the finan-
7 cial needs of survivors or to cover the expenses
8 of survivors, which assistance—

9 (i) may be distributed at the discre-
10 tion of the organization and in amounts
11 determined by the organization based on
12 the needs of survivors, and in a way that
13 minimizes or eliminates the burden on sur-
14 vivors to provide external documentation of
15 their needs or expenses;

16 (ii) may be distributed directly to a
17 survivor, to the parent or guardian of a
18 survivor if the survivor is a minor or de-
19 pendent adult, or if the survivor or the
20 parent or guardian of a minor or depend-
21 ent survivor requests, to a vendor, busi-
22 ness, or another third party to pay for an
23 expense or purchase a product on a sur-
24 vivor's behalf;

1 (iii) may be distributed in the form of
2 cash, electronic transfer, check, direct de-
3 posit, prepaid card, or in another similar
4 manner at the discretion of the organiza-
5 tion and based on the needs of survivors.

6 (B) To establish and maintain a program
7 to distribute the assistance described under
8 subparagraph (A), including staffing, training,
9 operational, and evaluation expenses, except
10 that not more than 20 percent of the grant may
11 be used for the purposes under this subpara-
12 graph.

13 (2) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—A commu-
14 nity-based organization receiving a grant under this
15 section shall establish and maintain policies and pro-
16 cedures for distributing cash assistance to survivors
17 of violence that—

18 (A) promote the distribution of cash assist-
19 ance to survivors in a manner that meets the
20 immediate needs of survivors quickly;

21 (B) do not require survivors to engage in
22 other services or programs as a condition of re-
23 ceiving cash assistance;

1 (C) do not require survivors to provide or
2 maintain burdensome documentation of their
3 need or spending;

4 (D) do not require survivors to report a
5 crime to a law enforcement agency, court, or
6 other local, State, Tribal, or Federal agency
7 designated to investigate or prosecute crimes,
8 abuse, or violence as a condition of receiving
9 cash assistance;

10 (E) do not exclude survivors on the basis
11 of citizenship or immigration status; and

12 (F) do not exclude survivors on the basis
13 of an arrest or conviction record, nor on the
14 basis of a survivor's status under correctional
15 control or supervision.

16 (h) GRANT DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
17 section shall be for a 4-year period.

18 (i) FIRST AWARD.—Subject to the availability of ap-
19 propriations, not later than 9 months after the date of
20 enactment of this Act, the Director shall make the first
21 grant award under this section.

22 (j) EXCLUSION FROM INCOME, RESOURCES, AND AS-
23 SETS.—

24 (1) FLEXIBLE CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS
25 EXCLUDED FROM INCOME, RESOURCES, AND ASSETS

1 FOR PURPOSES OF MEANS TESTS.—Notwithstanding
2 any other provision of law (other than section 1403
3 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C.
4 20102)), for the purpose of any maximum allowed
5 income, resource, or asset eligibility requirement in
6 any Federal, State, or local government program
7 using Federal funds that provides medical or other
8 assistance (or payment or reimbursement of the cost
9 of such assistance), any amount of cash assistance
10 received by a survivor of violence through the grant
11 program established under this section shall not be
12 included for purposes of calculating income, re-
13 sources, or assets of the survivor, nor shall that
14 amount reduce the amount of the assistance avail-
15 able to the survivor from Federal, State, or local
16 government programs using Federal funds.

17 (2) FLEXIBLE CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS
18 NOT CONSIDERED GROSS INCOME.—Notwithstanding
19 any other provision of law, any cash assistance re-
20 ceived by a survivor of violence through the grant
21 program established under this section shall be ex-
22 cluded from gross income under section 61 of the
23 Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

24 (k) REPORTS.—

1 (1) REPORTS TO THE DIRECTOR.—Not later
2 than 1 year after receiving a grant under this sec-
3 tion, and annually thereafter, each community-based
4 organization that receives a grant under this section
5 shall submit a report on the use of such grant funds
6 to the Director, as required by the Director. Such
7 report shall, at a minimum, include—

8 (A) the aggregate number of survivors of
9 violence who received cash assistance through
10 the grant program; and

11 (B) the average amount of assistance each
12 such survivor received through the grant pro-
13 gram.

14 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
15 year after the date on which the first 4-year grant
16 period under this section ends, and every 4 years
17 thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a
18 report that, at a minimum, includes—

19 (A) any findings resulting from reports
20 submitted to the Director under paragraph (1);
21 and

22 (B) best practices for grantees under this
23 section to implement flexible cash assistance
24 programs for survivors pf violence.

1 (l) ADMINISTRATION AND EVALUATION.—The Direc-
2 tor may reserve up to 8 percent of the funds appropriated
3 for the grant program each year for the costs of admin-
4 istering the grant program, including, without limitation,
5 employing personnel, providing technical assistance or
6 training to grantees or prospective grantees, contracting
7 with independent researchers to evaluate the impact of the
8 program, and issuing a report on the impact of the grant
9 program.

10 (m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to implement this section
12 \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

13 **SEC. 4. STATE LEVEL SUPPLEMENTAL VICTIM SURVEYS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, act-
16 ing through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statis-
17 tics of the Department of Justice (in this section referred
18 to as the “Director”), shall make grants to States to ad-
19 minister surveys to survivors of violence to determine their
20 needs related to having been survivors of violence.

21 (b) PRIORITY.—The Director shall prioritize award-
22 ing grants to recipients that solicit information about one
23 or more of the following:

24 (1) The types of services survivors of violence
25 received related to having been victimized, and the

1 experiences of such survivors while receiving such
2 services.

3 (2) Whether survivors wanted services that they
4 did not receive.

5 (3) The experiences of survivors with relocation,
6 eviction, immigration, and housing following victim-
7 ization.

8 (4) The experiences of survivors with the use of
9 force by and injury caused by law enforcement offi-
10 cers.

11 (5) The prevalence of victimization and the
12 post-victimization needs of—

13 (A) individuals who have been arrested or
14 convicted of crimes;

15 (B) individuals who are unhoused; or

16 (C) individuals who are living in institu-
17 tions, including prisons, jails, medical or nurs-
18 ing facilities, or mental health facilities.

19 (c) REPORTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
22 nually thereafter, each State that receives a grant
23 under this section shall submit to the Director a re-
24 port documenting the results and findings from the
25 survey funded by the grant.

1 (2) PUBLICATION BY DIRECTOR.—The Director
2 shall make publicly available on the website of the
3 Bureau of Justice Statistics the reports submitted
4 under paragraph (1).

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2031.

8 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
11 term “community-based organization” means a non-
12 profit, nongovernmental, or Tribal organization that
13 serves a specific geographic community. Such term
14 does not include any law enforcement agency or any
15 court, or any other local, State, or Federal agency
16 designated to investigate or prosecute crimes, abuse,
17 or violence.

18 (2) FAMILY MEMBER.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
20 subparagraph (B), the term “family member”
21 means, with respect to an individual, any of the
22 following:

23 (i) A child (whether a biological, fos-
24 ter, adoptive, or step relationship), or a
25 person who is under the legal guardianship

1 of the individual or to whom the individual
2 stands in loco parentis or has stood in loco
3 parentis.

4 (ii) A biological, adoptive, or foster
5 parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of an
6 individual or an individual's spouse or do-
7 mestic partner, or a person who stood in
8 loco parentis when the individual or the in-
9 dividual's spouse or domestic partner was
10 a minor child.

11 (iii) A person to whom the individual
12 is legally married under the laws of any
13 State, or a domestic partner.

14 (iv) A grandparent, grandchild, or sib-
15 ling (whether a biological, foster, adoptive,
16 or step relationship) of the individual or of
17 the individual's spouse or domestic part-
18 ner.

19 (v) A person who lives in the same
20 household as the individual.

21 (vi) Any other individual related by
22 blood, adoption, or marriage or whose close
23 association with the individual is the equiv-
24 alent of a family relationship.

1 (B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not in-
2 clude a person who has committed an act or
3 conduct described in clause (i) through (vi) of
4 subparagraph (A) against the individual.

5 (3) SURVIVOR OF VIOLENCE.—The terms “sur-
6 vivor of violence” means an individual against whom
7 any of the following have been committed:

8 (A) An act or conduct during which an-
9 other person—

10 (i) caused or threatened to cause bod-
11 ily injury to that individual;

12 (ii) exhibited, drew, brandished, or
13 used a firearm, or other weapon, against
14 that individual; or

15 (iii) used, or threatened to use, force
16 against that individual to cause injury or
17 death.

18 (B) Dating violence.

19 (C) Domestic violence.

20 (D) Family violence.

21 (E) Sexual assault.

22 (F) Sexual harassment.

23 (G) Trafficking.

24 (H) Stalking.

1 (4) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal
2 organization” has the meaning given such term in
3 section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of
4 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291).