

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for safe schools and safe communities.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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\_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was read twice  
and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To provide for safe schools and safe 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 “Securing Our Schools  
5 Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Section 2009 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
8 (6 U.S.C. 609a) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (e), by striking “2020 through  
10 2024” and inserting “2023 through 2030”;

11 (2) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-  
12 section (i);

1           (3) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(f) FEEDBACK.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator denies  
5           an application for a grant under this section, not  
6           later than 120 days after the date of the denial, the  
7           Administrator shall—

8                   “(A) notify the applicant; and

9                   “(B) provide an explanation for the denial.

10           “(2) EXPLANATION.—An explanation described  
11           in paragraph (1)(B) shall include information identi-  
12           fying the reason for the denial of the application, in-  
13           cluding—

14                   “(A) any factors that led to a lower score  
15                   or rank compared to other applicants; and

16                   “(B) an identification of any deficiencies in  
17                   the application.

18           “(g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND TECHNICAL AS-  
19           SISTANCE.—A State through which the Administrator  
20           makes a grant to an eligible nonprofit organization under  
21           this section shall receive a 5 percent increase in the  
22           amount of the grant—

23                   “(1) for administrative costs; and

24                   “(2) to provide technical assistance to the eligi-  
25           ble nonprofit organization.

1 “(h) APPLICATION UPDATE AND IMPROVEMENTS.—

2 “(1) PUBLIC MEETING.—Not later than 90  
3 days after the date of enactment of the Securing  
4 Our Schools Act of 2022, the Administrator shall  
5 hold a public meeting to solicit recommendations on  
6 updating the application process for a grant under  
7 this section.

8 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
9 the date of enactment of the Securing Our Schools  
10 Act of 2022, the Administrator shall—

11 “(A) develop recommendations to mod-  
12 ernize and update the application process for a  
13 grant under this section, which shall include  
14 considerations for—

15 “(i) establishing a more streamlined  
16 application process;

17 “(ii) establishing greater uniformity in  
18 the application process among all appli-  
19 cants and the guidance provided to States  
20 through which the Administrator makes  
21 grants to eligible nonprofit organizations  
22 under this section;

23 “(iii) ensuring that the application  
24 template is compatible with the latest or

1 most widely used version of software pro-  
2 grams; and

3 “(iv) coordinating with the Adminis-  
4 trator of General Services to ensure that  
5 applications submitted under this section  
6 are compatible across online platforms of  
7 the Federal Government; and

8 “(B) submit to the Committee on Home-  
9 land Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
10 Senate and the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
11 rity of the House of Representatives a report  
12 that includes—

13 “(i) the recommendations developed  
14 under subparagraph (A); and

15 “(ii) a description of whether the rec-  
16 ommendations developed under subpara-  
17 graph (A) are consistent with feedback re-  
18 ceived at the public meeting required under  
19 paragraph (1).

20 “(3) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDA-  
21 TIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of  
22 enactment of the Securing Our Schools Act of 2022,  
23 the Administrator shall implement the recommenda-  
24 tions developed under paragraph (2)(A).

1           “(4) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT WAIVER.—  
2           For the purpose of meeting the deadlines established  
3           under this subsection, the Secretary may waive the  
4           application of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44,  
5           United States Code, to the requirements of this sub-  
6           section.”; and

7           (4) in subsection (i), as so redesignated—

8                   (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$75 mil-  
9                   lion for each of fiscal years 2020 through  
10                   2024” and inserting “\$540,000,000 for each of  
11                   fiscal years 2023 through 2030”;

12                   (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

13                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

14           “(2) HIGH-RISK URBAN AREAS.—Of the  
15           amounts made available to carry out this section for  
16           each of fiscal years 2023 through 2030, not less  
17           than 0.35 percent shall be for grants to eligible re-  
18           cipients located in each high-risk urban area receiv-  
19           ing grants under section 2003.

20           “(3) SALARIES AND EXPENSES.—Of the  
21           amounts made available to carry out this section in  
22           any fiscal year, the Administrator may transfer to  
23           another account of the Federal Emergency Manage-  
24           ment Agency not more than 3 percent for salaries  
25           and administrative expenses, including any necessary

1 expenses to provide feedback or technical assistance  
2 to applicants for a grant under this section in ac-  
3 cordance with subsection (g).”.

4 **SEC. 3. SECURING SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—

6 (1) APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to  
7 be appropriated, and there are appropriated, to the  
8 Secretary of Education to carry out subpart 1 of  
9 part A of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary  
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7111),  
11 \$2,560,000,000 for fiscal years 2023 to 2032.

12 (2) SCHOOL SECURITY.—The Secretary of Edu-  
13 cation shall use 50 percent of the funds appropriated  
14 under paragraph (1) to carry out clause (v) of sec-  
15 tion 4104(b)(3)(B) of the Elementary and Sec-  
16 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
17 7114(b)(3)(B)).

18 (b) ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT  
19 OF 1965.—Section 4104 of the Elementary and Secondary  
20 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7114) is amended in  
21 subsection (b)(3)(B)—

22 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;  
23 and

24 (2) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

1           “(v) improving school conditions for  
2 student learning, by enabling local edu-  
3 cational agencies to use funds available  
4 under subsection (a)(3) for the purpose of  
5 planning and designing school buildings  
6 and facilities, installing infrastructure, and  
7 implementing technology or other meas-  
8 ures, that strengthen security on school  
9 premises, which may include—

10           “(I) controlling access to school  
11 premises or facilities, through the use  
12 of metal detectors, or other measures,  
13 or technology, with evidence-based ef-  
14 fectiveness (to the extent the State in-  
15 volved determines that such evidence  
16 is reasonably available), which may in-  
17 clude—

18           “(aa) secured campus exter-  
19 nal gate or locked doors or check-  
20 in points;

21           “(bb) active shooter alert  
22 systems;

23           “(cc) access control;

24           “(dd) internal door locks;

1                   “(ee) peepholes for class-  
2 room doors;

3                   “(ff) school site alarm and  
4 protection systems;

5                   “(gg) metal detectors or x-  
6 ray machines (including port-  
7 able);

8                   “(hh) door locking mecha-  
9 nisms and access control doors;

10                  “(ii) increased lighting on  
11 school grounds;

12                  “(jj) emergency call boxes;

13                  “(kk) two-way radios;

14                  “(ll) emergency alerts;

15                  “(mm) surveillance cameras  
16 or systems and infrastructure  
17 (such as poles and wiring);

18                  “(nn) software costs and  
19 warranties;

20                  “(oo) fencing and gating;  
21 and

22                  “(pp) emergency generators  
23 to provide back-up power for  
24 phone systems, critical lighting,  
25 and essential outlets;



1                   “(II) implementing any tech-  
2 nology or measure, or installing any  
3 infrastructure, to cover and conceal  
4 students within the school during cri-  
5 sis situations;

6                   “(III) implementing technology  
7 to provide coordination with law en-  
8 forcement and notification to relevant  
9 law enforcement and first responders  
10 during such a situation, which shall  
11 include—

12                   “(aa) emergency planning  
13 and preparation;

14                   “(bb) emphasis on a school  
15 safety plan with buy in from all  
16 elements of the school commu-  
17 nity, including board members,  
18 employees, students, parents, law  
19 enforcers, government and busi-  
20 ness leaders, the media, and local  
21 residents;

22                   “(cc) school implementation  
23 of threat assessment programs;

1           “(dd) development of dis-  
2           trict-based mandatory incident  
3           reporting systems;

4           “(ee) establishment of local  
5           school safety advisory groups (in-  
6           cluding parents, families, judges,  
7           first responders, health and  
8           human service professionals, and  
9           mental health professionals);

10          “(ff) evidence-based training  
11          for school resource officers,  
12          school personnel, and students to  
13          prevent student violence to enable  
14          them to recognize and quickly re-  
15          spond to warning signs;

16          “(gg) development and oper-  
17          ations of anonymous reporting  
18          systems;

19          “(hh) evidence-based school  
20          threat assessment and crisis  
21          intervention teams;

22          “(ii) programs to facilitate  
23          coordination with local law en-  
24          forcement;

1                   “(jj) liability and insurance  
2                   for school districts;

3                   “(kk)           trauma-informed  
4                   training for school staff on re-  
5                   sponses to active shooter situa-  
6                   tions; and

7                   “(ll) community engagement  
8                   for planning and implementing  
9                   safety policies and procedures;

10                  “(IV) implementing any tech-  
11                  nology or measure, including hiring  
12                  school security officers, or installing  
13                  any infrastructure, with evidence-  
14                  based effectiveness (to the extent the  
15                  State involved determines that such  
16                  evidence is reasonably available) to in-  
17                  crease the safety of school students  
18                  and staff;

19                  “(V) implementing any tech-  
20                  nology or measure, or installing any  
21                  infrastructure, for school safety rein-  
22                  forcement, including bullet-resistant  
23                  doors and windows; and

24                  “(VI) implementing any tech-  
25                  nology or system that would reduce

1 the time needed to disseminate official  
2 information to parents regarding the  
3 safety of their children during and im-  
4 mediately following a crisis;”.

5 **SEC. 4. IMPROVING SCHOOL SECURITY THROUGH THE**  
6 **COPS ON THE BEAT PROGRAM.**

7 Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-  
8 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b))  
9 is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (22), by striking “and” at the  
11 end;

12 (2) in paragraph (23), by striking the period at  
13 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(24) to pay salaries and expenses of school re-  
16 source officers at public, charter, and private ele-  
17 mentary schools and secondary schools (as such  
18 terms are defined under section 8101 of the Elemen-  
19 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
20 U.S.C. 7801)); and

21 “(25) to improve physical school security at  
22 public, charter, and private elementary schools and  
23 secondary schools (as such terms are defined under  
24 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
25 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) by obtaining

1 security equipment to protect students in schools  
2 and equip law enforcement officers responding to  
3 school security issues and installing physical struc-  
4 ture improvements, including—

5 “(A) fencing, external gates, door locks,  
6 and check-in points, to establish a secured cam-  
7 pus;

8 “(B) active shooter alert systems;

9 “(C) access controls;

10 “(D) internal door locks;

11 “(E) school site alarm and protection sys-  
12 tems;

13 “(F) metal detector or x-ray machines (in-  
14 cluding portable machines);

15 “(G) ballistic safety equipment for schools  
16 and responding law enforcement officers;

17 “(H) increased lighting on school grounds;

18 “(I) emergency call boxes;

19 “(J) two-way radios;

20 “(K) emergency alert systems;

21 “(L) surveillance cameras or systems, in-  
22 cluding infrastructure for such systems such as  
23 poles and wiring;

24 “(M) software costs and warranties; and

1           “(N) emergency generators to provide  
2           back-up power for phone systems, critical light-  
3           ing, and essential outlets.”.

4 **SEC. 5. STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH.**

5       (a) STUDENT ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH PRO-  
6 GRAM FUND.—

7           (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8           (A) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term “eligi-  
9           ble school” means a school in which the lowest  
10          grade at the school is not lower than grade 6  
11          and the highest grade at the school is not high-  
12          er than grade 12.

13          (B) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
14          means the Secretary of Education.

15       (2) STUDENT ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH  
16 PROGRAM FUND.—

17           (A) IN GENERAL.—From the funds made  
18          available to carry out section 2001 of the Amer-  
19          ican Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (20 U.S.C. 3401  
20          note), \$10,000,000,000 shall be transferred to  
21          establish the “Student Access to Mental Health  
22          Program Fund”, to remain available through  
23          September 30, 2031. The Secretary shall use  
24          amounts available in such Fund to award  
25          grants to States, from allocations under sub-

1 paragraph (B), to enable the States to support  
2 the salary of a mental health professional in eli-  
3 gible schools located in the State.

4 (B) ALLOCATION.—From the amounts  
5 available in the Fund established under sub-  
6 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall make an al-  
7 location to each State in the same proportion as  
8 the number of eligible schools located in the  
9 State.

10 (C) PARTNERSHIP.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—A State awarded a  
12 grant under this subsection shall comply  
13 with the following:

14 (I) The State shall use the grant  
15 funds to cover the cost of the salary,  
16 which shall be not more than \$55,000,  
17 for 10 years for a mental health pro-  
18 fessional to serve eligible schools lo-  
19 cated in the State. Such mental health  
20 professional shall serve not more than  
21 5 eligible schools in any school year by  
22 rotating among the schools for not  
23 less than 1 day a week at each such  
24 school.

1 (II) The State shall expend non-  
2 Federal funds to pay for the other  
3 costs of recruitment, training, and  
4 benefits for each such mental health  
5 professional, and any other expenses  
6 related to such employment.

7 (ii) CONDITIONS OF GRANTS.—A  
8 State awarded a grant under this sub-  
9 section shall require that each eligible  
10 school served by the grant—

11 (I) provide to the parents of any  
12 student enrolled in the school who has  
13 not reached age 19 who meets with a  
14 mental health professional employed  
15 at the school with all counseling  
16 records and mental health assess-  
17 ments for such student;

18 (II) not teach Critical Race The-  
19 ory or include Critical Race Theory in  
20 any school program; and

21 (III) not advocate for abortion or  
22 abortion services in any form.

23 (b) FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS.—The unobligated bal-  
24 ance of funds made available to carry out sections 2021  
25 and 6002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub-



1 lic Law 117–2) shall be transferred to, and evenly divided  
2 among, the following programs:

3 (1) Project AWARE State Educational Agency  
4 Grant Program carried out by the Secretary of  
5 Health and Human Services.

6 (2) Student Support and Academic Enrichment  
7 Grant Program carried out by the Secretary of Edu-  
8 cation.

9 (3) Community Mental Health Services Block  
10 Grant Program carried out by the Secretary of  
11 Health and Human Services.

12 (4) Children’s Mental Health Initiative of the  
13 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Ad-  
14 ministration.

15 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—

16 (1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection,  
17 the terms “elementary school” and “secondary  
18 school” have the meanings given the terms in section  
19 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21 (2) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF  
22 BEST PRACTICES .—Not later than 1 year after the  
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of  
24 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
25 Administration, the Secretary of Health and Human

1 Services, and the Secretary of Education shall work  
2 in consultation to—

3 (A) develop best practices for identifying  
4 warning signs of mental health problems with  
5 students and identify warning signs for teachers  
6 and administrator that a student is at high-risk  
7 for violence, specifically for a mass shooting;

8 (B) develop best practices for identifying  
9 warning signs of mental health problems with  
10 children and identify warning signs for individ-  
11 uals who work at a social service agency that a  
12 child under the age of 18 is at high-risk for vio-  
13 lence, specifically for a mass shooting; and

14 (C) disseminate the best practices devel-  
15 oped under subparagraphs (A) and (B) to each  
16 elementary school and secondary school in the  
17 United States, and publish the best practices on  
18 a publicly accessible website of the Department  
19 of Education and the Substance Abuse and  
20 Mental Health Services Administration.

21 (d) GAO STUDY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
23 the United States shall conduct a study on how  
24 many elementary schools and secondary schools in  
25 the United States have a mental health provider for

1 students, how many students take advantage of the  
2 mental health services, the main causes for students  
3 to access the services.

4 (2) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection,  
5 the terms “elementary school” and “secondary  
6 school” have the meanings given the terms in section  
7 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS.**

10 The unobligated balance of funds made available to  
11 carry out section 18003 of division B of the CARES Act  
12 (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 565), section 313 of the  
13 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appro-  
14 priations Act, 2021 (division M of Public Law 116–260;  
15 134 Stat. 1929), and section 2001 of the American Rescue  
16 Plan Act of 2021 (20 U.S.C. 3401 note) shall be trans-  
17 ferred to the Secretary of Education to be used to carry  
18 out this Act in an amount not to exceed \$38,000,000,000.

19 **SEC. 7. NO FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ABORTIONS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—No funds authorized or appro-  
21 priated by this Act, or an amendment made by this Act,  
22 shall be expended for any abortion or counseling that re-  
23 sults in encouraging, facilitating, or referral for an abor-  
24 tion.

1           (b) HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE.—No funds au-  
2 thORIZED or appropriated by this Act, or an amendment  
3 made by this Act, shall be expended for health benefits  
4 coverage that includes coverage of abortion.

5           (c) EXCEPTIONS.—The limitations established in  
6 paragraphs (a) and (b) shall not apply to an abortion—

7                 (1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of  
8 rape or incest; or

9                 (2) in the case where a woman suffers from a  
10 physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness,  
11 including a life-endangering physical condition  
12 caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that  
13 would, as certified by a physician, place the woman  
14 in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.