

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3962

To establish a Federal Advisory Council to Support Victims of Gun Violence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2023

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. WILD, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. BEYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a Federal Advisory Council to Support Victims
of Gun Violence.

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 “Resources for Victims
5 of Gun Violence Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term “Advisory
2 Council” means the Advisory Council to Support
3 Victims of Gun Violence established under section 3.

4 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
5 “appropriate committees” means the following:

6 (A) The Committee on Health, Education,
7 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

8 (B) The Committee on the Judiciary of the
9 Senate.

10 (C) The Committee on Education and the
11 Workforce of the House of Representatives.

12 (D) The Committee on Energy and Com-
13 merce of the House of Representatives.

14 (E) The Committee on the Judiciary of the
15 House of Representatives.

16 (F) Any other relevant committee of the
17 Senate or of the House of Representatives with
18 jurisdiction over matters affecting victims of
19 gun violence.

20 (3) GUN VIOLENCE.—The term “gun violence”
21 means—

22 (A) suicide involving firearms;

23 (B) homicide involving firearms;

24 (C) domestic violence involving firearms;

25 (D) hate crimes involving firearms;

- 1 (E) youth violence involving firearms;
- 2 (F) mass shootings;
- 3 (G) unintentional shootings;
- 4 (H) non-fatal shootings; and
- 5 (I) threats or exposure to violent acts in-
- 6 volving firearms.

7 (4) VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROFESSIONAL.—The
8 term “victim assistance professional” means a pro-
9 fessional who assists victims of gun violence, includ-
10 ing—

11 (A) a medical professional, including an
12 emergency medical professional;

13 (B) a social worker;

14 (C) a provider of long-term services or
15 care; and

16 (D) a victim advocate.

17 (5) VICTIM OF GUN VIOLENCE.—The term “vie-
18 tim of gun violence” means—

19 (A) an individual who has been wounded
20 as a result of gun violence;

21 (B) an individual who has been threatened
22 with an act of gun violence;

23 (C) an individual who has witnessed an act
24 of gun violence; and

1 (D) a relative, classmate, coworker, or
2 other associate of—

3 (i) an individual who has been killed
4 as a result of gun violence; or

5 (ii) an individual described in sub-
6 paragraph (A) or (B).

7 **SEC. 3. ADVISORY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF GUN**
8 **VIOLENCE.**

9 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an Advi-
10 sory Council to Support Victims of Gun Violence.

11 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

12 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Advisory Council shall
13 be composed of the following members or their des-
14 ignees:

15 (A) The Secretary of Health and Human
16 Services.

17 (B) The Attorney General.

18 (C) The Secretary of Education.

19 (D) The Secretary of Housing and Urban
20 Development.

21 (E) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

22 (F) The Commissioner of Social Security.

23 (G) The Assistant Secretary for Mental
24 Health and Substance Use.

1 (H) The Director of the Centers for Dis-
2 ease Control and Prevention.

3 (I) The Director of the National Institutes
4 of Health.

5 (J) The Administrator of the Administra-
6 tion for Community Living.

7 (K) The Director of the Office on Violence
8 Against Women.

9 (L) The Director of the Office for Victims
10 of Crime.

11 (M) The chairman of the Board of the
12 Legal Services Corporation.

13 (N) As appropriate, the head of any other
14 Federal department or agency identified by the
15 Secretary of Health and Human Services as
16 having responsibilities, or administering pro-
17 grams, relating to issues affecting victims of
18 gun violence.

19 (2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—In addition to the
20 members described in paragraph (1), the Advisory
21 Council shall be composed of the following:

22 (A) Not fewer than 2 and not more than
23 5 victims of gun violence, who shall be ap-
24 pointed by the Secretary of Health and Human
25 Services.

1 (B) Not fewer than 2 and not more than
2 5 victim assistance professionals, who shall be
3 appointed by the Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services.

5 (3) LEAD AGENCY.—The Department of Health
6 and Human Services shall be the lead agency for the
7 Advisory Council.

8 (c) DUTIES.—

9 (1) ASSESSMENT.—The Advisory Council
10 shall—

11 (A) survey victims of gun violence and vic-
12 tim assistance professionals about their needs
13 in order to inform the content of information
14 disseminated under paragraph (2) and the re-
15 port published under paragraph (3);

16 (B) conduct a literature review and assess
17 past or ongoing programs designed to assist vic-
18 tims of gun violence or individuals with similar
19 needs to determine—

20 (i) the effectiveness of the programs;

21 and

22 (ii) best and promising practices for
23 assisting victims of gun violence; and

24 (C) assess the administration of compensa-
25 tion funds established after mass shootings to

1 determine best and promising practices to di-
2 rect victims of gun violence to sources of fund-
3 ing.

4 (2) INFORMATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council
6 shall identify, promote, coordinate, and dissemi-
7 nate to the public information, resources, and
8 best and promising practices available to help
9 victims of gun violence—

10 (i) meet their medical, financial, edu-
11 cational, workplace, housing, transpor-
12 tation, assistive technology, and accessi-
13 bility needs;

14 (ii) maintain their mental health and
15 emotional well-being;

16 (iii) seek legal redress for their inju-
17 ries and protection against any ongoing
18 threats to their safety; and

19 (iv) access government programs,
20 services, and benefits for which they may
21 be eligible or to which they may be enti-
22 tled.

23 (B) CONTACT INFORMATION.—The Advi-
24 sory Council shall include in the information
25 disseminated under subparagraph (A) the

1 websites and telephone contact information for
2 helplines of relevant Federal agencies, State
3 agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

4 (C) AVAILABILITY.—The Advisory Council
5 shall make the information described in sub-
6 paragraphs (A) and (B) available—

7 (i) online through a public website;

8 and

9 (ii) by submitting a hard copy and
10 making available additional hard copies
11 to—

12 (I) each Member of Congress;

13 (II) each field office of the Social
14 Security Administration;

15 (III) each State agency that is
16 responsible for administering health
17 and human services, for dissemination
18 to medical facilities;

19 (IV) each State agency that is re-
20 sponsible for administering education
21 programs, for dissemination to
22 schools; and

23 (V) the office of each State attor-
24 ney general, for dissemination to local
25 prosecutor's offices.

1 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Advisory
3 Council shall—

4 (A) prepare a report that—

5 (i) includes the best and promising
6 practices, resources, and other useful infor-
7 mation for victims of gun violence identi-
8 fied under paragraph (2);

9 (ii) identifies any gaps in items de-
10 scribed in clause (i); and

11 (iii) if applicable, identifies any addi-
12 tional Federal or State legislative authority
13 necessary to implement the activities de-
14 scribed in clause (i) or address the gaps
15 described in clause (ii);

16 (B) submit the report prepared under sub-
17 paragraph (A) to—

18 (i) the appropriate committees;

19 (ii) each State agency that is respon-
20 sible for administering health and human
21 services;

22 (iii) each State agency that is respon-
23 sible for administering education pro-
24 grams; and

1 (iv) the office of each State attorney
2 general; and

3 (C) make the report prepared under sub-
4 paragraph (A) available to the public online in
5 an accessible format.

6 (4) FOLLOW-UP REPORT.—Not later than 2
7 years after the date on which the Advisory Council
8 prepares the report under paragraph (3), the Advi-
9 sory Council shall—

10 (A) submit to the entities described in sub-
11 paragraph (B) of that paragraph a follow-up re-
12 port that includes the information identified in
13 subparagraph (A) of that paragraph; and

14 (B) make the follow-up report described in
15 subparagraph (A) available to the public online
16 in an accessible format.

17 (5) PUBLIC INPUT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council
19 shall establish a process to collect public input
20 to inform the development of, and provide up-
21 dates to, the best and promising practices, re-
22 sources, and other information described in
23 paragraph (2), including by conducting out-
24 reach to entities and individuals described in
25 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph that—

1 (i) have a range of experience with the
2 types of gun violence described in section
3 2(3); and

4 (ii) include representation from com-
5 munities disproportionately affected by gun
6 violence.

7 (B) ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS.—The en-
8 tities and individuals described in this subpara-
9 graph are—

10 (i) States, local governments, and or-
11 ganizations that provide information to, or
12 support for, victims of gun violence;

13 (ii) victims of gun violence; and

14 (iii) victim assistance professionals.

15 (C) NATURE OF OUTREACH.—In con-
16 ducting outreach under subparagraph (A), the
17 Advisory Council shall ask for input on—

18 (i) information, resources, and best
19 and promising practices available, includ-
20 ing identification of any gaps and unmet
21 needs;

22 (ii) recommendations that would help
23 victims of gun violence—

24 (I) better meet their medical, fi-
25 nancial, educational, workplace, hous-

1 ing, transportation, assistive tech-
2 nology, and accessibility needs;

3 (II) maintain their mental health
4 and emotional well-being;

5 (III) seek legal redress for their
6 injuries and protection against any
7 ongoing threats to their safety; and

8 (IV) access government pro-
9 grams, services, and benefits for
10 which the victims may be eligible or to
11 which the victims may be entitled; and

12 (iii) any other subject areas discovered
13 during the process that would help victims
14 of gun violence.

15 (d) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Chapter
16 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the
17 Advisory Council.

18 (e) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to
19 be appropriated to carry out this Act.

20 (f) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate
21 on the date that is 5 years after the date of establishment
22 of the Advisory Council.

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