

116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 8803

To establish the National Telephone Hotline and Online Resource Service for Victims of Police Violence and Harassment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Mr. McEachin (for himself, Mr. Raskin, and Mr. Richmond) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish the National Telephone Hotline and Online Resource Service for Victims of Police Violence and Harassment, 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 "Justice Hotline Act
- 5 of 2020".
- 6 SEC. 2. NATIONAL TELEPHONE HOTLINE AND ONLINE RE-
- 7 SOURCE SERVICE FOR VICTIMS OF POLICE
- 8 VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT.
- 9 (a) In General.—Beginning in fiscal year 2021,
- 10 and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Attorney General,

- 1 in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human
- 2 Services (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"),
- 3 shall make grants for a national, confidential telephone
- 4 hotline and online resource service to assist victims of law
- 5 enforcement officer violence and harassment in commu-
- 6 nicating with service providers. The Attorney General
- 7 shall give priority to grant applicants that have experience
- 8 in providing services and supports to victims of law en-
- 9 forcement officer violence or harassment.
- 10 (b) Eligible Entities.—Eligible entities shall in-
- 11 clude the following:
- 12 (1) Institutions of higher learning, such as His-
- torically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority
- serving institution, and Tribal College or Univer-
- sities.
- 16 (2) Private nonprofit agencies.
- 17 (c) Grants.—The Attorney General, in coordination
- 18 with the Secretary, shall make grants which shall be used
- 19 for the performance of the organization's national pro-
- 20 grams, including the following:
- 21 (1) Operation of a confidential 24-hour, na-
- tional, toll-free telephone hotline and a confidential
- 23 24-hour, national, free online resource service for
- victims of law enforcement officer violence, law en-
- 25 forcement officer harassment, family and household

1	members of such victims, and persons affected by
2	the victimization, by which individuals may—
3	(A) report information regarding the loca-
4	tion of any law enforcement officer violence or
5	harassment; and
6	(B) request information pertaining to pro-
7	cedures necessary to file formal complaints
8	against law enforcement officers; receive infor-
9	mation and assistance for adult and youth vic-
10	tims of law enforcement officer violence, law en-
11	forcement officer harassment, family and house-
12	hold members of such victims, and persons af-
13	fected by the victimization.
14	(2) Providing to State and local governments,
15	public and private nonprofit agencies, State and
16	local educational agencies, and individuals, resource
17	information regarding victims of law enforcement of-
18	ficer violence, law enforcement officer harassment,
19	family and household members of such victims, and
20	persons affected by the victimization.
21	(d) ACTIVITIES.—In establishing and operating the
22	telephone hotline and online resource service, the entity—
23	(1) shall contract with a carrier for the use of

a toll-free, single telephone line;

- (2) shall employ, train (including providing technology training), and supervise personnel to answer incoming calls and online messages, provide counseling and referral services on a 24-hour-a-day basis, and direct connections to service providers;
 - (3) shall assemble and maintain a database of information relating to services for adult and youth victims of law enforcement officer violence or harassment to which callers may be referred throughout the United States, including information on the availability of supportive services for victims of law enforcement officer violence or harassment;
 - (4) shall widely publicize the contact information of the telephone hotline and online resource service throughout the United States, including to potential users;
 - (5) shall provide assistance and referrals to meet the needs of underserved populations and individuals with disabilities;
 - (6) shall collect audio or visual recordings, if applicable;
 - (7) shall provide assistance and referrals for youth victims of law enforcement officer violence or harassment who are minors;

- 1 (8) shall collect geographic information relating 2 to the location, time, and date of the law enforce-3 ment officer violence or harassment;
 - (9) shall not collect any personally identifiable information unless informed consent is provided by the person who is the subject of an incident of law enforcement officer harassment or violence and by the person who reports an incident of law enforcement officer harassment or violence, if such person is not the subject of the incident; and
 - (10) may provide appropriate assistance and referrals for family and household members of victims of law enforcement officer violence and harassment, and persons affected by the victimization described in subsection (c)(1).
- 16 (e) Grant Application.—To be eligible to receive 17 a grant under this section, an entity shall submit an appli-18 cation to the Attorney General that shall—
- 19 (1) contain such agreements, assurances, and 20 information, be in such form, and be submitted in 21 such manner, as the Attorney General shall pre-22 scribe;
- 23 (2) include a complete description of the appli-24 cant's plan for the operation of a telephone hotline

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1	and online resource service, including descriptions
2	of—
3	(A) the training program for telephone
4	hotline and online resource service personnel
5	including technology training to ensure that al
6	persons affiliated with the telephone hotline and
7	online resource service are able to effectively op-
8	erate any technological systems used by the
9	telephone hotline and online resource service;
10	(B) the hiring criteria and qualifications
11	for telephone hotline and online resource service
12	personnel;
13	(C) the methods for the creation, mainte-
14	nance, and updating of an online resource serve
15	ice;
16	(D) a plan for publicizing the availability
17	of the telephone hotline and online resource
18	service;
19	(E) plan for providing services to Limited
20	English Proficient individuals, including service
21	through telephone hotline and online resource
22	service personnel who have non-English lan-
23	guage capabilities; and
24	(F) a plan for facilitating access to the
25	telephone hotline and online resource service by

- persons with disabilities, including persons who
 are deaf or have hearing impairments;
 - (3) demonstrate that the applicant has recognized expertise in the area of social service operations and a record of high quality service to victims of violence and harassment, including a demonstration of support from advocacy groups;
 - (4) demonstrate that the applicant has the capacity and the expertise to maintain a telephone hotline and online resource service and a comprehensive database of service providers for victims of law enforcement violence and harassment;
 - (5) demonstrate the ability to provide information and referrals for callers, directly connect callers to service providers, and employ crisis interventions meeting the standards;
 - (6) demonstrate that the applicant has a commitment to diversity and to the provision of services to underserved populations, including to ethnic, racial, and non-English speaking minorities, in addition to older individuals and individuals with disabilities;
 - (7) demonstrate that the applicant complies with non-disclosure requirements and follows comprehensive quality assurance practices; and

- 1 (8) contain such other information as the Attor-
- 2 ney General may require.
- 3 (f) NOTICE.—The national telephone hotline and the
- 4 URL of the online resource service described in this sec-
- 5 tion shall be posted in a visible place in all Federal build-
- 6 ings.
- 7 (g) Duration.—Grants awarded to eligible entities
- 8 and institutions under this subsection shall be 2 years in
- 9 duration. A grant may be extended for additional 2-year
- 10 periods.
- 11 (h) CONDITIONS ON PAYMENT.—The provision of
- 12 payments under a grant awarded under this section shall
- 13 be subject to annual approval by the Attorney General and
- 14 subject to the availability of appropriations for each fiscal
- 15 year to make the payment.
- 16 (i) Grantee Report.—Each eligible entity or insti-
- 17 tution that receives a grant shall submit a yearly report
- 18 to the Attorney General detailing how the grant recipient
- 19 has been able to meet the goals of its plans and reporting
- 20 the statistical summaries.
- 21 (j) Report to Congress.—Not later than 1 year
- 22 after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year
- 23 thereafter, the Attorney General shall report to Congress
- 24 on the implementation operations and statistical sum-
- 25 maries developed and collected under this section and pol-

1	icy changes made within the Department of Justice in re-
2	sponse to the implementation operations and statistical
3	summaries.
4	(k) GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.—
5	(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 2 years after the
6	date on which the Attorney General establishes the
7	national telephone hotline and online resource serv-
8	ice to assist victims of law enforcement officer vio-
9	lence and harassment in communicating with service
10	providers, the Comptroller General of the United
11	States shall conduct a review of the program to en-
12	sure the effectiveness of the telephone hotline and
13	online resource service in enhancing awareness and
14	education of services available to victims of law en-
15	forcement officer violence or harassment, which shall
16	include—
17	(A) an assessment of the effectiveness of
18	the telephone hotline and online resource serv-
19	ice, including—
20	(i) assessing the effectiveness of the
21	telephone hotline and online resource serv-
22	ice in reaching underserved and minority
23	communities;
24	(ii) assessing the effectiveness of
25	grant recipients to undertake efforts to

1	educate the public about the telephone hot-
2	line and online resource service; and
3	(iii) a comprehensive review of the ac-
4	tivities data described in subsection (d);
5	and
6	(B) recommendations for any changes to
7	the program.
8	(2) Report.—Not later than 270 days after
9	the date on which the Comptroller General of the
10	United States begins the review required under
11	paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit
12	to the appropriate congressional committees a report
13	on the review.

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