

### 117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 792

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate the installation, on bridges, of evidence-based suicide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and barriers, and for other purposes.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 4, 2021

Mr. Beyer (for himself, Mr. Katko, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. Cleaver, Mrs. Axne, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Carson, Mr. Trone, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Harder of California, Ms. Wild, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, and Mr. Hastings) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate the installation, on bridges, of evidence-based suicide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and barriers, 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 "Barriers to Suicide
- 5 Act of 2021".

#### 1 SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

- 2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
- 3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
- 4 portation shall establish a program (in this section re-
- 5 ferred to as the "Program") to facilitate the installation
- 6 of evidence-based suicide deterrents on bridges, including
- 7 suicide prevention nets and barriers.
- 8 (b) Grant Authority.—In carrying out the Pro-
- 9 gram, the Secretary may make grants on a competitive
- 10 basis in accordance with this section.
- 11 (c) Eligible Recipients.—The Secretary may
- 12 make a grant under the Program to a State or a political
- 13 subdivision of a State.
- 14 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
- 15 the Program, an entity described in subsection (c) shall
- 16 submit to the Secretary an application in such form, at
- 17 such time, and containing such information as the Sec-
- 18 retary determines appropriate.
- 19 (e) Eligible Projects.—The Secretary may make
- 20 a grant under the Program only for a project that facili-
- 21 tates the installation on a bridge of—
- 22 (1) a suicide prevention net;
- 23 (2) a suicide prevention barrier; or
- 24 (3) any other evidence-based suicide deterrent
- 25 that is determined by the Secretary to be appro-
- priate.

- 1 (f) Priority.—In making a grant under the Pro-
- 2 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to a project located
- 3 in an area with a high rate of suicide or other priority
- 4 characteristics, as determined by the Secretary.
- 5 (g) Federal Share.—The Federal share of the cost
- 6 of a project assisted with a grant under the Program may
- 7 not exceed 80 percent.
- 8 (h) Definitions.—In this section:
- 9 (1) State.—The term "State" means each
- 10 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
- each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
- 12 United States, and each federally recognized Indian
- Tribe.
- 14 (2) EVIDENCE-BASED SUICIDE DETERRENT.—
- The term "evidence-based suicide deterrent" means
- a suicide deterrent that demonstrates a rationale
- based on high-quality research findings or positive
- evaluation that such deterrent is likely to reduce or
- prevent suicide, and includes ongoing efforts to ex-
- amine the effects of such deterrent.
- 21 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program
- 23 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

### 1 SEC. 3. TITLE 23 AMENDMENTS.

2	(a) National Highway Performance Pro-
3	GRAM.—Section 119(d)(2)(I) of title 23, United States
4	Code, is amended by striking "Highway System." and
5	adding "Highway System, including installation of safety
6	barriers and nets on bridges of the National Highway Sys-
7	tem.".
8	(b) Surface Transportation Block Grants.—
9	Section 133(b)(4) of title 23, United States Code, is
10	amended by striking "crossings." and adding "crossings
11	and installation of safety barriers and nets on bridges.".
12	SEC. 4. STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF SUICIDE PREVEN-
13	TION NETS AND BARRIERS FOR STRUCTURES
14	OTHER THAN BRIDGES.
15	(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
16	States shall conduct a study to identify—
17	(1) the types of structures, other than bridges,
18	that attract a high number of individuals attempting
19	suicide-by-jumping;
20	(2) the characteristics that distinguish struc-
21	tures identified under paragraph (1) from similar
22	structures that do not attract a high number of indi-
23	viduals attempting suicide-by-jumping;
24	(3) the types of nets or barriers that are effec-
25	tive at reducing suicide-by-jumping with respect to
26	the structures identified under paragraph (1):

1	(4) methods of reducing suicide-by-jumping
2	with respect to the structures identified under para-
3	graph (1) other than nets and barriers;
4	(5) quantitative measures of the effectiveness of
5	the nets and barriers identified under paragraph (3);
6	(6) quantitative measures of the effectiveness of
7	the additional methods identified under paragraph
8	(4);
9	(7) the entities that typically install the nets
10	and barriers identified under paragraph (3); and
11	(8) the costs of the nets and barriers identified
12	under paragraph (3).
13	(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
14	of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
15	submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
16	structure and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
17	of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
18	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Com-
19	mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
20	Senate a report on the results of the study conducted
21	under subsection (a).