



The Supporting Blue Envelope Programs Act *Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Eric Schmitt (R-MO)*

Background:

Blue Envelope programs improve communication between law enforcement and public safety personnel with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), or other features that may affect communication with first responders.

Blue Envelope programs provide participating drivers with a physical blue envelope to use during traffic stops, along with optional Blue Envelope-branded products they can wear or display when interacting with law enforcement and other public safety personnel. These materials can hold the individual's identification, emergency contacts, vehicle registration, insurance, and other helpful information. Blue Envelope programs also provide law enforcement and first responders with training and resources for safer, more effective interactions with individuals with ASD, I/DD, or those facing other communication challenges. Participating community members and their families can also access voluntary training, education, and related resources.

Bill Summary:

The bipartisan, bicameral *Supporting Blue Envelope Programs Act* aims to provide federal funding to help states and local communities create, expand, or strengthen Blue Envelope programs nationwide.

Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes grants for training and resources for law enforcement and first responders on interacting with individuals with ASD, I/DD, or other features that can affect communication.
- Protects individual and family privacy by preventing the development of registration systems.
- Prioritizes programs that involve multiple law enforcement agencies, entities with experience with person-centered and trauma-informed practices and a direct link to individuals with ASD and I/DD and their families, and have community support.
- Requires the Department of Justice to (1) write a report to Congress every two years on the implementation of the Blue Envelope grants under this section and best practices, and (2) create an online directory of Blue Envelope programs so members of the public can find their closest program.

The legislation is led in the House by Reps. Norma J. Torres (CA-35) and John Rutherford (FL-05).

The *Supporting Blue Envelope Programs Act* is endorsed by: Autism Society, Autism Speaks, Major County Sheriffs Association (MCSA), Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Easterseals, National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Delaware Association Chiefs of Police, Delaware Office of Highway Safety, Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), The Arc of the United States, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Psychological Association Services, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD), National Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities, American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA), and PD Avengers — Global Alliance to End Parkinson's.

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