

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To authorize the Attorney General to make grants to eligible entities to carry out blue envelope programs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To authorize the Attorney General to make grants to eligible entities to carry out blue envelope programs, 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 “Supporting Blue Enve-  
5 lope Programs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BLUE ENVELOPE GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
9 ty” means—

1 (A) a law enforcement agency or group of  
2 law enforcement agencies that has a partner-  
3 ship a with nonprofit organization described in  
4 subparagraph (B) for the purpose of creating or  
5 supporting a blue envelope program; or

6 (B) a nonprofit organization—

7 (i) that provides services to or other-  
8 wise assists individuals with autism spec-  
9 trum disorder or developmental, cognitive,  
10 sensory, or communication disabilities, and  
11 families of those individuals; and

12 (ii) that has a partnership with not  
13 fewer than 1 law enforcement agency for  
14 the purpose of creating or supporting a  
15 blue envelope program.

16 (2) BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM.—The term  
17 “blue envelope program” means a program operated  
18 by an eligible entity—

19 (A) that provides training, including crisis  
20 response and deescalation tactic training, and  
21 resources for law enforcement officers (and may  
22 provide training for first responders) on im-  
23 proving interactions with individuals with au-  
24 tism spectrum disorder or developmental, cog-  
25 nitive, sensory, or communication disabilities;

1 (B) that does not have a registration com-  
2 ponent or participant list for participating indi-  
3 viduals described in subparagraph (A);

4 (C) in which participation is voluntary for  
5 individuals described in subparagraph (A);

6 (D) that provides individuals described in  
7 subparagraph (A) with items and materials that  
8 help overcome communication barriers in inter-  
9 actions with law enforcement and first respond-  
10 ers, including—

11 (i) blue envelopes that can be used to  
12 store essential documents in vehicles, such  
13 as identification, diagnosis information,  
14 communication preferences and emergency  
15 contact information for use during vehicle-  
16 related law enforcement encounters; and

17 (ii) other items and materials that  
18 may include—

19 (I) car decals;

20 (II) seatbealt covers;

21 (III) lanyards;

22 (IV) keychains;

23 (V) pins; and

24 (VI) other accessories and re-  
25 sources that can be helpful in over-

1 coming communication barriers in  
2 interactions with law enforcement and  
3 first responders; and

4 (E) that provides education, including vol-  
5 untary training and resources—

6 (i) for community members on how to  
7 safely interact with individuals described in  
8 subparagraph (A); and

9 (ii) for individuals described in sub-  
10 paragraph (A) on how use the items and  
11 materials described in subparagraph (D).

12 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
13 the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

14 (4) STATE; UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—  
15 The terms “State” and “unit of local government”  
16 have the meanings given those terms in section 901  
17 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act  
18 of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

19 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting  
20 through the Director, may make grants to eligible entities  
21 to create or support blue envelope programs.

22 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
23 tion, the Director shall prioritize blue envelope programs  
24 that—

1           (1) have scalability or a plan to continue the  
2           operation of the program beyond the duration of the  
3           grant award;

4           (2) have community support;

5           (3) involve multiple law enforcement agencies;

6           and

7           (4) involve entities that—

8                   (A) have demonstrated person-centered  
9                   and trauma-informed practices and actively en-  
10                  gage individuals in the community with autism  
11                  spectrum disorder or developmental, cognitive,  
12                  sensory, or communication disabilities, who may  
13                  face communication barriers during law en-  
14                  forcement encounters;

15                   (B) have experience in providing training  
16                   and resources to law enforcement agencies in  
17                   interactions with such individuals; and

18                   (C) seek the input and feedback from self-  
19                   advocates with a variety of disabilities.

20           (d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Director shall make every  
21           effort to—

22                   (1) ensure a broad geographic distribution of  
23                   awards under this section; and

1           (2) take into consideration the needs of under-  
2           served populations, including rural and Tribal com-  
3           munities.

4           (e) REPORT.—On the date that is 1 year after the  
5           date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years there-  
6           after, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on—

7           (1) the implementation of the grant program  
8           under this section;

9           (2) different models and examples of blue enve-  
10          lope programs funded under this section, including  
11          trainings and materials used; and

12          (3) recommended best practices for blue enve-  
13          lope programs.

14          (f) DIRECTORY.—The Director shall maintain a pub-  
15          licly accessible online directory of blue envelope programs  
16          for use by members of the public to locate the nearest blue  
17          envelope program.

18          (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
19          authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General to  
20          carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
21          2027 through 2031.