

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 951

To establish the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2023

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, 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 “Office of Gun Violence
5 Prevention Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory
9 Council” means the advisory council established
10 under section 3(e)(1).

1 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of the Office.

3 (3) GUN VIOLENCE.—The term “gun violence”
4 includes homicide, violent crime, domestic violence,
5 attempted suicide, suicide, and unintentional death
6 or injury involving a firearm.

7 (4) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
8 fice of Gun Violence Prevention established under
9 section 3(a).

10 **SEC. 3. OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
13 establish within the Office of Legal Policy of the De-
14 partment of Justice the Office of Gun Violence Pre-
15 vention.

16 (2) DIRECTOR.—The Attorney General shall
17 appoint a Director to be the head of the Office.

18 (b) DUTIES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consulta-
20 tion with the Advisory Council, shall coordinate, in-
21 tegrate, and maximize the efficacy of each responsi-
22 bility, program, and service relating to gun violence
23 prevention administered by the Attorney General to
24 maximize an integrated approach to reducing gun vi-

1 olence and serving victims of gun violence, includ-
2 ing—

3 (A) the responsibilities of the heads of the
4 Criminal and Civil Divisions of the Department
5 of Justice, the Director of the Office of Com-
6 munity Oriented Policing Services, each United
7 States Attorney, Director of the Bureau of Al-
8 cohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the
9 Director of the Office on Violence Against
10 Women, the Director of the Office of Victims of
11 Crime, and the Director of the Office of Justice
12 Programs; and

13 (B) the administration of the national in-
14 stant criminal background check system estab-
15 lished under section 103 of the Brady Handgun
16 Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901).

17 (2) EVALUATION.—The Director, in consulta-
18 tion with the Advisory Council, shall evaluate laws,
19 regulations, Federal programs, offices, data sources,
20 and grant programs relating to gun violence preven-
21 tion administered by the Attorney General to assess
22 how each such law, regulation, Federal program, of-
23 fice, data source, and grant program can be maxi-
24 mized, modernized, and coordinated to reduce gun
25 violence.

1 (3) POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Director
2 shall recommend to Congress and the President leg-
3 islative and executive policy options to promote evi-
4 dence-based gun violence prevention strategies, in-
5 cluding the implementation of existing laws, regula-
6 tions, and grant programs.

7 (4) DATA.—The Director, in consultation with
8 the Advisory Council, shall—

9 (A) identify gaps in available data needed
10 for gun violence prevention research, policy de-
11 velopment, and the implementation of evidence-
12 based gun violence prevention strategies; and

13 (B) develop a plan to collect and analyze
14 the data described in subparagraph (A).

15 (5) ASSESSMENT.—The Director, in consulta-
16 tion with the Advisory Council, shall assess ongoing
17 research efforts of the Department of Justice relat-
18 ing to gun violence to establish a comprehensive re-
19 search agenda on the causes and solutions of gun vi-
20 olence.

21 (6) EDUCATION.—The Director, in consultation
22 with the Advisory Council, shall educate the general
23 public about Federal laws, regulations, and grant
24 programs relating to gun violence prevention, includ-

1 ing by conducting education and awareness cam-
2 paigns—

3 (A) directed at—

4 (i) owners of firearms;

5 (ii) parents and legal guardians of mi-
6 nors; and

7 (iii) professionals who provide services
8 to individuals and communities dispro-
9 tionately impacted by gun violence; and

10 (B) that include education relating to the
11 secure storage or firearms and suicide preven-
12 tion.

13 (7) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties
14 under this subsection, the Director shall coordinate
15 with Federal agencies and commissions that have ju-
16 risdiction over gun violence prevention, including—

17 (A) the Department of Health and Human
18 Services;

19 (B) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

20 (C) the Department of Education;

21 (D) the Department of Housing and
22 Urban Development;

23 (E) the Department of Commerce;

24 (F) the Department of Homeland Security;

25 (G) the Department of Defense;

1 (H) the Department of the Interior;

2 (I) the Consumer Product Safety Commis-
3 sion;

4 (J) the Federal Trade Commission; and

5 (K) the United States Sentencing Commis-
6 sion.

7 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
9 thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a
10 report that includes—

11 (A) information on the state of gun vio-
12 lence in the United States;

13 (B) recommendations for policy initiatives
14 and legislation to reduce gun violence in the
15 United States; and

16 (C) a description of the efforts of the Di-
17 rector to carry out the duties under this sub-
18 section.

19 (c) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less
22 frequently than quarterly thereafter, the Attorney
23 General shall convene an advisory council—

24 (A) chaired by the Director; and

1 (B) the membership of which includes the
2 following individuals or a designee of the indi-
3 vidual:

4 (i) The Deputy Attorney General.

5 (ii) The Associate Attorney General.

6 (iii) The Assistant Attorney General
7 for the Office of Legal Policy.

8 (iv) The Assistant Attorney General
9 for the Office of Justice Programs.

10 (v) The Assistant Attorney General
11 for the Criminal Division.

12 (vi) The Director of the Bureau of Al-
13 cohool, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

14 (vii) The Director of the Federal Bu-
15 reau of Investigation.

16 (viii) The Director of the Bureau of
17 Justice Assistance.

18 (ix) The Director of the Office on Vio-
19 lence Against Women.

20 (x) The Director of the Office of Vic-
21 tims of Crime.

22 (xi) The Director of the Bureau of
23 Justice Statistics.

24 (xii) The Director of the National In-
25 stitute of Justice.

1 (2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
3 make every reasonable effort to include as
4 members of the Advisory Council not fewer
5 than 12 additional individuals.

6 (B) REPRESENTATIVES.—The additional
7 members described in subparagraph (A) shall
8 include not fewer than 1—

9 (i) survivor of gun violence;

10 (ii) community violence intervention
11 service provider;

12 (iii) public health official;

13 (iv) medical professional who provides
14 trauma care;

15 (v) mental health clinician;

16 (vi) official from a department of jus-
17 tice of a State;

18 (vii) State or local public health de-
19 partment official;

20 (viii) teacher;

21 (ix) member of a student group; and

22 (x) veteran.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.

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