

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To establish a pilot program within the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice relating to advocacy for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish a pilot program within the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice relating to advocacy for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims, 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 “Reaching Every Sur-  
5 vivor with Police and On-Site Nonprofit Services Evalua-  
6 tions Act of 2022” or the “RESPONSE Act of 2022”.

7 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1           (1) DATING VIOLENCE; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;  
2 VICTIM ADVOCATE.—The terms “dating violence”,  
3 “domestic violence”, and “victim advocate” have the  
4 meaning given those term in section 40002 of the  
5 Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C.  
6 12291).

7           (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
8 the Director of the Office on Violence Against  
9 Women of the Department of Justice.

10           (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
11 ty” means a community-based organization or a vic-  
12 tim service provider (as defined in section 40002 of  
13 the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C.  
14 12291)) that—

15           (A) has demonstrated capacity to assist  
16 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dat-  
17 ing violence, or stalking in crisis through a vic-  
18 tim advocate program;

19           (B) is prepared to provide victim-centered,  
20 culturally relevant, and trauma-informed serv-  
21 ices to victims of domestic violence, sexual as-  
22 sault, dating violence, or stalking;

23           (C) has a cooperative agreement or memo-  
24 randum of understanding in effect with a local  
25 law enforcement agency that indicates a part-

1           nership in responding to domestic violence, sex-  
2           ual assault, dating violence, or stalking; and

3           (D) operates a transitional shelter for do-  
4           mestic or sexual assault victims or has a coop-  
5           erative agreement with a local transitional shel-  
6           ter that can house victims assisted by a victim  
7           advocate of the eligible entity on the crime  
8           scene of a domestic violence, sexual assault,  
9           dating violence, or stalking call if necessary.

10          (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term  
11          “law enforcement agency” has the meaning given  
12          the term “law enforcement” in section 40002 of the  
13          Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C.  
14          12291).

15          (5) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term  
16          “law enforcement officer” means an agent of a law  
17          enforcement agency with responsibilities to provide  
18          public safety.

19          (b) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

20          (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish  
21          a pilot program under which the Director awards  
22          competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose  
23          of working collaboratively with local law enforcement  
24          agencies to dispatch victim advocates to domestic vi-

1       olence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking  
2       crime scenes in accordance with paragraph (2).

3               (2) CRIME SCENE ADVOCACY.—With respect to  
4       a crime scene to which a victim advocate is dis-  
5       patched under paragraph (1)—

6               (A) the victim advocate shall arrive at the  
7       crime scene—

8                       (i) after the crime scene is secured by  
9                       a law enforcement officer;

10                      (ii) when an arrest is made; or

11                      (iii) when there is probable cause to  
12                      make an arrest, but the perpetrator of the  
13                      crime has fled; and

14               (B) a law enforcement officer shall remain  
15       at the crime scene while the victim advocate  
16       meets with a victim.

17               (3) VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY.—A victim of do-  
18       mestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or  
19       stalking who receives advice, counseling, or assist-  
20       ance from a victim advocate under this subsection  
21       shall have the privilege to refuse to disclose, and to  
22       prevent any other person from disclosing, confiden-  
23       tial communications.

1           (4) MINIMUM NUMBER OF AWARDS.—The Di-  
2           rector shall award not fewer than 3 grants under  
3           this subsection.

4           (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a  
5           grant under subsection (b) shall submit to the Director  
6           an application at such at such time, in such manner, and  
7           containing or accompanied by such information as the Di-  
8           rector may reasonably require.

9           (d) DURATION; STAGES.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program estab-  
11           lished under subsection (b) shall terminate on the  
12           date that is 3 years after the date on which the Di-  
13           rector notifies the first eligible entity that eligible  
14           entity is receiving a grant under the pilot program.

15           (2) 2ND AND FINAL YEARS.—During the 2-year  
16           period beginning on the date on which the Director  
17           awards a grant under this section, the Director shall  
18           continue to implement the pilot program established  
19           under subsection (b).

20           (e) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The head of the  
21           eligible entity shall—

22           (1) hire additional staff—

23                   (A) to dispatch victim advocates to crime  
24                   scenes in accordance with subsection (b)(2); or

1 (B) if a crime scene is not accessible to a  
2 victim advocate in accordance with subsection  
3 (b)(2)(A), to work with the victim of a crime at  
4 another location;

5 (2) develop policies for collaborating with law  
6 enforcement agencies on dispatching victim advo-  
7 cates to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating vio-  
8 lence, or stalking crime scenes;

9 (3) train the staff and volunteers of the eligible  
10 entity and each law enforcement agency with which  
11 the eligible entity has a partnership on the policies  
12 developed under paragraph (2); and

13 (4) begin implementing the pilot program estab-  
14 lished under subsection (b).

15 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
16 a grant under subsection (b) shall use a portion of the  
17 grant to—

18 (1) acquire or update dispatch software, as nec-  
19 essary; and

20 (2) acquire language interpretation services  
21 that allow victim advocates to communicate with in-  
22 dividuals with limited English proficiency.

23 (g) REPORT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after  
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall

1       make public a report that includes data collection  
2       and analysis relating to domestic violence, sexual as-  
3       sault, dating violence, or stalking calls in which vic-  
4       tim advocates of the eligible entity were involved  
5       during the pilot program established under this sec-  
6       tion.

7               (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under  
8       paragraph (1) shall include—

9               (A) a description of the activities and ac-  
10       complishments of the eligible entity in partici-  
11       pating in the pilot program;

12              (B) the total number of times that a victim  
13       advocate of the eligible entity was dispatched or  
14       arrived to the crime scene of a domestic vio-  
15       lence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalk-  
16       ing call;

17              (C) whether the eligible entity observed a  
18       reduction in repeat domestic violence, dating vi-  
19       olence, sexual assault, or stalking calls;

20              (D) whether victims connected with serv-  
21       ices of the eligible entity beyond the advocacy  
22       occurring at a crime scene; and

23              (E) any other information relating to the  
24       pilot program.

1           (h) EXPANSION.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1),  
2 the Director may continue and expand the pilot program  
3 by awarding additional grants under subsection (b) if, dur-  
4 ing the third year of the pilot program established under  
5 this section, the Director determines that data from the  
6 pilot program is promising in reducing—

7           (1) homicides as a result of domestic violence,  
8 dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and

9           (2) repeated calls relating to domestic violence,  
10 dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking from the  
11 same individuals.

12          (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the  
13 amounts authorized to be appropriated for discretionary  
14 grants under part U of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-  
15 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10461 et  
16 seq.) for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025, such  
17 sums as may be necessary are authorized to be appro-  
18 priated to carry out this section for each of those fiscal  
19 years.