

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7979

To allow certain funds provided in response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID–19 to be made available for school security measures, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2022

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To allow certain funds provided in response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID–19 to be made available for school security measures, 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 “Securing Our Schools
5 Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SCHOOL SECURITY**
2 **MEASURES.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-
4 sion of law, the unobligated balance of amounts made
5 available under section 602 or 603 of the Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 802 and 803) to any State, territory, Trib-
7 al government, metropolitan city, or other units of local
8 government (as such terms are defined for purposes of
9 such sections) may be made available to carry out school
10 security measures.

11 (b) **NONREQUIREMENT OF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC**
12 **HEALTH EMERGENCY.**—The use of amounts pursuant to
13 the authority provided by subsection (a) shall not be re-
14 quired to be in response to, or in any way connected with,
15 COVID–19 or the public health emergency with respect
16 to COVID–19.

17 (c) **SCHOOL SECURITY MEASURE.**—For purposes of
18 this Act, the term “school security measure” means any
19 of the following:

20 (1) An evidence-based strategy or program to
21 prevent violence, which may include the use of ap-
22 propriate technologies, including the placement and
23 use of metal detectors and other deterrent measures
24 and emergency notification and response tech-
25 nologies.

1 (2) Training to prevent student violence against
2 others and self, including training for local law en-
3 forcement officers, school personnel, and students.

4 (3) The development and operation of an anon-
5 ymous reporting system for threats of school vio-
6 lence, including a mobile telephone application, hot-
7 line, or internet website.

8 (4) The development and operation of—

9 (A) a school threat assessment and inter-
10 vention team that may include coordination
11 with law enforcement agencies and school per-
12 sonnel; and

13 (B) specialized training for school officials
14 in responding to mental health crises.

15 (5) Coordination with local law enforcement
16 agencies.

17 (6) A security assessment.

18 (7) Security training of personnel and students.

19 (8) Acquisition and installation of technology
20 for expedited notification of local law enforcement
21 during an emergency.

22 (9) Reinforcing or replacing classroom doors,
23 locks, or window panels.

1 (10) Constructing fencing, bollards, planters,
2 curbs, walls, or any other entry control measure to
3 create a single point of entry to the campus.

4 (11) Clearing exterior spaces of foliage or struc-
5 tures to eliminate spaces that could conceal illicit ac-
6 tivity, provide access to the building above the first
7 floor, or otherwise aid an intruder.

8 (12) Installing a system to monitor hallways,
9 stairwells, and utility rooms, such as physical inspec-
10 tion or surveillance cameras.

11 (13) Hiring and paying the salaries of qualified
12 individuals, such as retired law enforcement officers
13 or military veterans, to serve as armed school re-
14 source officers.

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