

[~118H2994]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish the Reentry Rental Assistance and Housing Services Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BARRAGÁN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish the Reentry Rental Assistance and Housing Services Grant Program, 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 “Returning Home Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REENTRY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING**
2 **SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control
4 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**OF-**
7 **FENDER**”;

8 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “offender”;

9 (3) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “**OF-**
11 **FENDER**”;

12 (B) by striking “offender”;

13 (C) in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) by striking “offenders” and insert-
15 ing “individuals”; and

16 (ii) by striking “or juvenile facilities”
17 and inserting “juvenile facilities, or half-
18 way houses”;

19 (D) in paragraph (3)—

20 (i) by striking “prison, jail, or a juve-
21 nile facility” and inserting “a prison, jail,
22 juvenile facility, or halfway house”; and

23 (ii) by striking “offenders” and insert-
24 ing “individuals”;

1 (E) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “of-
2 fenders” and inserting “individuals who are in-
3 carcerated or who were incarcerated”;

4 (F) in paragraph (5)—

5 (i) by striking “or juvenile facility”
6 and inserting “juvenile facility, or halfway
7 house”; and

8 (ii) by striking “offenders while in
9 custody” and inserting “such individuals
10 during incarceration”;

11 (G) in paragraph (6)—

12 (i) by striking “by offenders to vic-
13 tims” and inserting “by individuals who
14 committed crimes to victims of such
15 crimes”; and

16 (ii) by striking “of offenders” and in-
17 serting “of such individuals from a prison,
18 jail, juvenile facility, or halfway house”;
19 and

20 (H) in paragraph (7), by striking “dan-
21 gerous offenders” and inserting “individuals
22 who are incarcerated and dangerous”;

23 (4) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in the heading, by striking “OF-
25 FENDER”; and

1 (B) by striking “offender”;

2 (5) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking “of-
3 fender”;

4 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “offender”;
5 (7) in subsection (f)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “of-
7 fender”;

8 (B) in paragraph (2)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
11 are incarcerated”; and

12 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
13 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
14 are incarcerated”; and

15 (C) in paragraph (3)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (I) by striking “and juvenile fa-
18 cilities” and inserting “juvenile facili-
19 ties, and halfway houses”; and

20 (II) by striking “offenders” and
21 inserting “individuals”;

22 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

23 (I) in clause (ii), by striking “of-
24 fenders” and inserting “individuals”;

1 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
2 “prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities”
3 and inserting “a prison, jail, juvenile
4 facility, or halfway house”; and

5 (III) in clause (iii), by striking
6 “offenders” and inserting “individuals
7 who are incarcerated or who were in-
8 carcerated”;

9 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

10 (I) by striking “an offender” and
11 inserting “an incarcerated individual”;
12 and

13 (II) by striking “that offenders”
14 and inserting “that such individuals”;

15 (iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking
16 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
17 are incarcerated”; and

18 (v) in subparagraph (G)—

19 (I) by striking “offenders with
20 histories” and inserting “individuals
21 who are incarcerated or who were in-
22 carcerated and who have a history”;
23 and

1 (II) by striking “offender” in
2 each place it occurs and inserting “in-
3 dividual”;

4 (8) in subsection (h)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) by striking “offenders” and insert-
7 ing “individuals”; and

8 (ii) by striking “prison, jail or a juve-
9 nile facility” and inserting “a prison, jail,
10 juvenile facility, or halfway house”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “released
12 offenders” and inserting “individuals released
13 from a prison, jail, juvenile facility, or halfway
14 house”;

15 (9) in subsection (i)(1)—

16 (A) by striking “returning offenders and”
17 and inserting “individuals reentering the com-
18 munity after time spent in a prison, jail, juve-
19 nile facility, or halfway house and to”;

20 (B) by striking “offenders’ time in prison,
21 jail, or a juvenile facility” and inserting “such
22 time”;

23 (C) by striking “of offenders” and insert-
24 ing “of such individuals”; and

25 (D) by striking “offender”;

1 (10) in subsection (j)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “an im-
3 plementation” and inserting “a”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “offend-
5 ers released back” and inserting “individuals
6 who were released from a prison, jail, juvenile
7 facility, or halfway house”; and

8 (C) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) by striking “offenders” and insert-
10 ing “individuals”; and

11 (ii) by striking “prison, jails, or juve-
12 nile facilities” and inserting “prisons, jails,
13 juvenile facilities, or halfway houses”;

14 (11) in subsection (m)—

15 (A) by striking “Juvenile Offender” each
16 place such term appears and inserting “Juve-
17 nile”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “of-
19 fender”; and

20 (C) in paragraph (3)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
22 “offender”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (F)—

24 (I) by striking “prison, jail, or a
25 juvenile facility” and inserting “a

1 prison, jail, juvenile facility, or half-
2 way house”; and

3 (II) by striking “prisons, jails, or
4 juvenile facilities” and inserting “a
5 prison, jail, juvenile facility, or half-
6 way house”; and

7 (iii) in subparagraph (I), by striking
8 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
9 are incarcerated or who were incarcer-
10 ated”;

11 (12) in subsection (n)(2)(A), by striking “of-
12 fenders” and inserting “individuals who received as-
13 sistance from such projects and who are incarcer-
14 ated or who were incarcerated”;

15 (13) in subsection (o)(2)(B), by striking “crimi-
16 nal offenders” and inserting “individuals who were
17 incarcerated”; and

18 (14) in subsection (p)—

19 (A) by striking “offenders reentering the
20 community” in each place it occurs and insert-
21 ing “individuals who are reentering the commu-
22 nity after incarceration”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “offend-
24 ers” and inserting “individuals”.

1 **SEC. 3. RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING GRANT.**

2 Part FF of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and
3 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631 et seq.) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 2978. REENTRY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING**
6 **SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General shall,
8 in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban
9 Development, establish a program to be known as the ‘Re-
10 entry Rental Assistance and Housing Services Grant Pro-
11 gram’ to provide grants as provided under this section.

12 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant under this section
13 may be used for—

14 “(1) providing 24 months of rental assistance
15 to an individual who was incarcerated for purposes
16 of paying housing costs at a permanent residence;

17 “(2) providing a stipend to a family member of
18 an individual who was incarcerated if the individual
19 lives in the family member’s household; and

20 “(3) providing supportive services to individuals
21 who are incarcerated or who were incarcerated, in-
22 cluding—

23 “(A) pre-release planning;

24 “(B) document collection support;

25 “(C) housing counseling and location serv-
26 ices;

1 “(D) system navigation and linkage sup-
2 port to other services, including mental health
3 therapy, program services for victims of domes-
4 tic violence, program services for victims of sex-
5 ual assault, substance abuse treatment, edu-
6 cation services, and employment services;

7 “(E) information about home-based serv-
8 ices and community-based services;

9 “(F) case management and addressing
10 criminogenic needs;

11 “(G) move-in support and assistance;

12 “(H) support with security deposits and
13 other leasing fees;

14 “(I) housing placement support;

15 “(J) housing stabilization support for at
16 least 12 months to help retain housing after
17 placement;

18 “(K) financial incentives to landlords, in-
19 cluding payment of holding fees, funds to miti-
20 gate property damage, and other incentives to
21 accept tenants who are receiving rental assist-
22 ance; and

23 “(L) other similar supportive services as
24 determined by the Secretary.

1 “(c) ALLOCATION FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—A
2 grantee shall use—

3 “(1) not less than 60 percent of the grant fund-
4 ing for rental assistance described under subsection
5 (b)(2); and

6 “(2) not more than 15 percent of grant funding
7 for financial incentives to landlords described under
8 subsection (b)(3)(K).

9 “(d) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(1) APPLICATION.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant
12 seeking a grant under this section shall submit
13 an application to the Attorney General at such
14 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
15 formation as the Attorney General may require.

16 “(B) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—For purposes
17 of this paragraph, an eligible applicant is—

18 “(i) an eligible entity;

19 “(ii) a nonprofit organization or serv-
20 ice provider in partnership with an eligible
21 entity; or

22 “(iii) a nonprofit organization or serv-
23 ice provider in partnership with—

24 “(I) a collaborative applicant or
25 other entity funded under the Con-

1 tinuum of Care program under sub-
2 title IV of the McKinney-Vento Home-
3 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381
4 et seq.);

5 “(II) a protection and advocacy
6 system (as defined in section 102 of
7 the Developmental Disabilities Assist-
8 ance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000
9 (42 U.S.C. 15002));

10 “(III) a client assistance program
11 (as described in section 112 of the Re-
12 habilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.
13 732)); or

14 “(IV) a center for independent
15 living (as defined in section 702 of the
16 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.
17 796a)).

18 “(2) PROGRAM PROPOSAL.—The Attorney Gen-
19 eral may make a grant under this section to an ap-
20 plicant only if the applicant submits a proposed pro-
21 gram that will benefit—

22 “(A) individuals who are incarcerated in a
23 prison, jail, juvenile facility, or halfway house
24 who are not more than 365 days from their re-

1 lease date and are at risk of becoming homeless
2 or exiting into housing insecurity;

3 “(B) individuals experiencing homelessness
4 while under parole or supervised release from a
5 prison, jail, juvenile facility, or halfway house;
6 or

7 “(C) individuals experiencing homelessness
8 or housing insecurity and who were discharged
9 from a prison, jail, juvenile facility, or halfway
10 house.

11 “(3) PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—The Attor-
12 ney General shall prioritize grants—

13 “(B) to an applicant that implements a
14 housing first approach which includes low-bar-
15 rier screening criteria for determining which in-
16 dividuals receive assistance under the program;
17 and

18 “(C) to an applicant that implements a
19 program to serve a population that, when com-
20 pared to the general population, is at a dis-
21 proportionate risk of incarceration and that ex-
22periences a disproportionate rate of homeless-
23ness.

24 “(4) PROHIBITION ON GRANTS TO LAW EN-
25FORCEMENT.—The Attorney General may not pro-

1 vide a grant under this section to a law enforcement
2 entity, including an entity that employs probation of-
3 ficers.

4 “(e) DENIAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee under this sec-
6 tion shall notify individuals who apply for and are
7 denied support from programs funded with such
8 grants about—

9 “(A) the denial;

10 “(B) the reason for the denial; and

11 “(C) supportive services (including housing
12 counseling) and free legal resources.

13 “(2) TIMING.—Such notifications shall be sent
14 to the individual within 15 days after denial.

15 “(f) ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—A grantee
16 under this section shall ensure that information regarding
17 the programs and support services that the grantee offers
18 and that are funded with such grants is made available—

19 “(1) in a manner that uses simple, plain lan-
20 guage and is reader friendly; and

21 “(2) in a form that is accessible to individuals
22 with disabilities.

23 “(g) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years after the
24 date of enactment of this section, the Attorney General
25 shall evaluate the efficacy of the grant awarded under this

1 section in improving outcomes for previously incarcerated
2 individuals.

3 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 is authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each
5 fiscal year to carry out this section.

6 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) DISABILITY.—The term ‘disability’ has the
8 meaning given to such term in section 3 of the
9 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
10 12102).

11 “(2) HOUSING COSTS.—The term ‘housing
12 costs’ includes rent, utilities, security deposits, appli-
13 cation fees, and other similar expenses as deter-
14 mined by the Attorney General, in consultation with
15 the Secretary.

16 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
17 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.”.