

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3249

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## AN ACT

To authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Project Safe Neighbor-  
3 hoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 For the purposes of this Act—

6 (1) the term “criminal street gangs” has the  
7 meaning given such term in section 521 of title 18,  
8 United States Code;

9 (2) the term “gang crime” means a felony or  
10 misdemeanor crime, under State or Federal law,  
11 committed by one or more persons who are a mem-  
12 ber of, or directly affiliated with, a criminal street  
13 gang;

14 (3) the term “transnational organized crime  
15 group” has the meaning given such term in section  
16 36(k)(6) of the State Department Basic Authorities  
17 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(6));

18 (4) the term “transnational organized crime”  
19 has the meaning given such term in section 36(k)(5)  
20 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of  
21 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(5)); and

22 (5) the term “firearms offenses” means an of-  
23 fense under section 922 or 924 of title 18, United  
24 States Code.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 The Attorney General of the United States is author-  
3 ized to establish and carry out a program, to be known  
4 as the “Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Pro-  
5 gram” or, in this Act, as the “Program”, within the Office  
6 of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice.

7 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

8 The purpose of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block  
9 Grant Program is to foster and improve existing partner-  
10 ships between Federal, State, and local agencies, including  
11 the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial dis-  
12 trict, to create safer neighborhoods through sustained re-  
13 ductions in violent crimes by—

14 (1) developing and executing strategic plans to  
15 assist law enforcement agencies in combating gang  
16 crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws and  
17 drug interdiction; and

18 (2) developing intervention and prevention ini-  
19 tiatives, including juvenile justice projects and activi-  
20 ties which may include street-level outreach, conflict  
21 mediation, and the changing of community norms, in  
22 order to reduce violence.

23 **SEC. 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall, not  
25 later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

1 make rules to create, carry out, and administer the Pro-  
2 gram in accordance with this section.

3 (b) FUNDS TO BE DIRECTED TO LOCAL CONTROL.—  
4 Amounts made available as grants under the Program  
5 shall be, to the greatest extent practicable, locally con-  
6 trolled to address problems that are identified locally.

7 (c) REGIONAL GANG TASK FORCES.—30 percent of  
8 the amounts made available as grants under the Program  
9 each fiscal year shall be granted to established Regional  
10 Gang Task Forces in regions experiencing a significant  
11 or increased presence of, or high levels of activity from,  
12 transnational organized crime groups posing threats to  
13 community safety in terms of violent crime, firearms of-  
14 fenses, human trafficking, trafficking and distribution of  
15 illegal opioids and heroin, and other crimes.

16 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; CONSOLIDA-**  
17 **TION OF PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
19 authorized to be appropriated for the Program under this  
20 Act \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through  
21 2021.

22 (b) CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMS.—For each of fis-  
23 cal years 2019 through 2023, no funds are authorized to  
24 be separately appropriated to the Department of Justice  
25 Office of Justice Programs for—

1           (1) competitive and evidence-based programs to  
2       reduce gun crime and gang violence;

3           (2) an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice  
4       innovation program;

5           (3) community-based violence prevention initia-  
6       tives; or

7           (4) gang and youth violence education, preven-  
8       tion and intervention, and related activities.

Passed the House of Representatives March 14,  
2018.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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