

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8733

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to support protective orders that protect individuals who are related by blood or marriage to individuals in intimate relationships, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2026

Mr. RYAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to support protective orders that protect individuals who are related by blood or marriage to individuals in intimate relationships, 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 “Melanie’s Law”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PROTECTIVE OR-**
2 **DERS THAT PROTECT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE**
3 **RELATED BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE TO INDI-**
4 **VIDUALS IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS.**

5 Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
6 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended
7 by adding at the end the following:

8 **“PART PP—MELANIE’S LAW: GRANT PROGRAM TO**
9 **SUPPORT PROTECTIVE ORDERS THAT PRO-**
10 **TECT INDIVIDUALS RELATED BY BLOOD OR**
11 **MARRIAGE TO INDIVIDUALS IN INTIMATE**
12 **RELATIONSHIPS**

13 **“SEC. 3061. PURPOSE; DEFINITION OF MELANIE’S LAW PRO-**
14 **TECTIVE ORDER AUTHORITIES.**

15 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this part is to sup-
16 port States to implement the Melanie’s Law protective
17 order authorities and carry out related activities involving
18 protective orders and domestic violence.

19 “(b) DEFINITION OF MELANIE’S LAW PROTECTIVE
20 ORDER AUTHORITIES.—In this part, the term ‘Melanie’s
21 Law protective order authorities’ means laws that ensure
22 that family courts and criminal courts, as applicable, have
23 each of the following authorities:

24 “(1) The jurisdiction and authority to issue and
25 enforce a protective order that protects one indi-
26 vidual from another, where the two individuals—

1 “(A) are related by consanguinity or affini-
2 ity;

3 “(B) are legally married to each other;

4 “(C) were formerly married to each other,
5 regardless of whether the individuals still reside
6 in the same household;

7 “(D) have a child in common, regardless of
8 whether the individuals have been married or
9 have lived together at any time; or

10 “(E) are or have been in an intimate rela-
11 tionship with each other.

12 “(2) In a situation in which two individuals are
13 or have been in an intimate relationship with each
14 other, the jurisdiction and authority to issue and en-
15 force a protective order that protects a third indi-
16 vidual, regardless of age, where that third individual
17 is related by consanguinity or affinity to either of
18 the two individuals.

19 **“SEC. 3062. GRANTS.**

20 “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Attorney General may make
21 grants to eligible States for the following purposes:

22 “(1) To provide education and training to law
23 enforcement officers, prosecutors, and courts on the
24 Melanie’s Law protective order authorities and the
25 implementation of those authorities.

1 “(2) To facilitate the service of process of pro-
2 tective orders, such as by enabling or improving
3 service of process—

4 “(A) in person or by electronic means; or

5 “(B) across State, Tribal, or local jurisdic-
6 tional lines.

7 “(3) To establish or enhance—

8 “(A) systems that manage and track infor-
9 mation about protective orders and violations of
10 protective orders, such as systems operated by
11 law enforcement agencies or courts; and

12 “(B) mechanisms for the sharing of such
13 information between and among such systems.

14 “(4) To support official units or positions that
15 have specialized responsibilities with respect to pro-
16 tective orders or domestic violence, such as to en-
17 force or promote compliance, to prosecute violations,
18 or to coordinate with others on such matters.

19 “(5) To enable or improve the provision to vic-
20 tims in matters involving protective orders of—

21 “(A) civil legal services, to help such vic-
22 tims obtain, modify, and enforce protective or-
23 ders or to represent such victims in related
24 matters involving immigration or custody;

1 “(B) victim advocacy services, hotline serv-
2 ices, and crisis response services;

3 “(C) emergency shelter services, relocation
4 assistance, transportation assistance, childcare
5 assistance, and short-term housing assistance;

6 “(D) access to counseling, trauma-in-
7 formed therapy, and case management; and

8 “(E) access to communications equipment
9 and services for personal safety and for partici-
10 pation in hearings or other official proceedings.

11 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for grants under
12 this section, a State must have in effect, and must certify
13 that it has in effect, the Melanie’s Law protective order
14 authorities.

15 “(c) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—Upon request of an
16 eligible State, the Attorney General may permit the State
17 to use grant amounts under this part to provide the non-
18 Federal share of the cost of programs or projects funded
19 by other grant programs administered by the Attorney
20 General that provide support or services to victims.

21 **“SEC. 3063. APPLICATIONS.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To request a grant under this
23 part, the chief executive of a State shall submit an applica-
24 tion to the Attorney General in such form and containing
25 such information as the Attorney General may reasonably

1 require. Such application shall include assurances that
2 Federal funds received under this part shall be used to
3 supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds that would
4 otherwise be available for activities funded under this part,
5 except as provided in section 3062(c).

6 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Such application
7 shall include an implementation plan describing how the
8 funds will be used, what performance measures will be ap-
9 plied, and how the State will coordinate and partner with
10 the relevant elements of the justice system, judicial sys-
11 tem, and victims services system.

12 **“SEC. 3064. ALLOCATIONS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, of the
14 amounts authorized to be appropriated for that fiscal year,
15 the Attorney General may obligate—

16 “(1) not more than 75 percent for grants to eli-
17 gible States on a formula basis, with each such State
18 receiving an amount that bears the same ratio to the
19 75 percent as the population of the State bears to
20 the population of all such States;

21 “(2) not more than 22 percent for grants to eli-
22 gible States on a competitive basis; and

23 “(3) not more than 3 percent for the adminis-
24 trative expenses of the Attorney General in carrying
25 out this part for that fiscal year, including technical

1 assistance, training, evaluation, and program admin-
2 istration.

3 “(b) **MINIMUM ALLOCATION UNDER FORMULA.**—
4 Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), each eligible State
5 shall receive an amount under subsection (a)(1) of not less
6 than 0.5 percent.

7 **“SEC. 3065. REPORTS.**

8 “Each grantee receiving funds under this part shall
9 submit a report to the Attorney General evaluating the
10 effectiveness of projects developed with funds provided
11 under this part and containing such additional informa-
12 tion as the Attorney General may prescribe.

13 **“SEC. 3066. DEFINITION OF STATE.**

14 “In this part, the term ‘State’ means each of the sev-
15 eral States and the District of Columbia, the Common-
16 wealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Vir-
17 gin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

18 **“SEC. 3067. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this part \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
21 through 2036.”.

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