

Highlights of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

This bipartisan legislation provides a total of over \$13 billion in federal funding to bolster public safety and innovative programs to help stop tragedies before they occur, including through substantial investments in mental health, school safety, and state-led crisis intervention programs. The cost of the bill is offset, and according to the Congressional Budget Office the legislation will reduce the deficit.

Crisis Intervention and Public Safety

- Supports State Crisis Intervention Efforts
 - \$750 million over 5 years in new Byrne-JAG grant funding, which will be distributed to all states to implement crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives of their choosing.
 - States that want to use this money to implement red flag laws must meet constitutional due process standards.
 - States that choose not to implement red flag laws would not have their share of this funding reduced, and can use it for other qualifying programs like mental health, drug, and veterans courts.
- \$150 million for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which provides free support to people in crisis, and thanks to an idea that originated in Utah, is rolling out its new three-digit 988 number nationwide this summer.
- Protects victims of domestic violence by ensuring court-convicted domestic abusers who are or were recently in a continuous serious relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with their victim cannot purchase a firearm. This has absolutely no impact on law-abiding citizens, and only affects court-convicted domestic abusers.
- Cracks down on illegal straw purchasers by making it a specific federal criminal offense to purchase, or conspire to purchase, a firearm for someone who is prohibited by law from purchasing a firearm.

Background Checks

- Improves the Existing Background Check System for Juveniles
 - Includes juvenile mental health and criminal records in a background check, and provides for enhanced review of purchasers between 18-21 years old.
 - Purchasers under 21 can continue to purchase a firearm immediately if the background check does not identify any disqualifying or possibly disqualifying juvenile records.
- Clarifies who must register as a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL), and is therefore required to run background checks.

Supporters of this bipartisan legislation include the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the American Hospital Association, the Children's Hospital Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.