

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2779

To establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. RUBIO) introduced
the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee
on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety
Best Practices, 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 “Luke and Alex School
5 Safety Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SCHOOL SAFETY**
7 **BEST PRACTICES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the
9 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)
10 is amended by inserting after section 2214 the following:

1 **“SEC. 2215. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SCHOOL SAFETY**
2 **BEST PRACTICES.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
5 tion with the Secretary of Education, the Attorney
6 General, and the Secretary of Health and Human
7 Services, shall establish a Federal Clearinghouse on
8 School Safety Best Practices (in this section referred
9 to as the ‘Clearinghouse’) within the Department.

10 “(2) PURPOSE.—The Clearinghouse shall be
11 the primary resource of the Federal Government to
12 identify and publish the best practices and rec-
13 ommendations for school safety for use by State and
14 local educational agencies, institutions of higher edu-
15 cation, State and local law enforcement agencies,
16 health professionals, and the general public.

17 “(3) PERSONNEL.—

18 “(A) ASSIGNMENTS.—The Clearinghouse
19 shall be assigned such personnel and resources
20 as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry
21 out this section.

22 “(B) DETAILEES.—The Secretary of Edu-
23 cation, the Attorney General, and the Secretary
24 of Health and Human Services may detail per-
25 sonnel to the Clearinghouse.

26 “(4) EXEMPTIONS.—

1 “(A) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—
 2 Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code
 3 (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction
 4 Act’) shall not apply to any rulemaking or in-
 5 formation collection required under this section.

6 “(B) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 7 ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
 8 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply for the purposes of
 9 carrying out this section.

10 “(b) CLEARINGHOUSE CONTENTS.—

11 “(1) CONSULTATION.—In identifying the best
 12 practices and recommendations for the Clearing-
 13 house, the Secretary may consult with appropriate
 14 Federal, State, local, Tribal, private sector, and non-
 15 governmental organizations.

16 “(2) CRITERIA FOR BEST PRACTICES AND REC-
 17 COMMENDATIONS.—The best practices and rec-
 18 ommendations of the Clearinghouse shall, at a min-
 19 imum—

20 “(A) involve comprehensive school safety
 21 measures, including threat prevention, pre-
 22 paredness, protection, mitigation, incident re-
 23 sponse, and recovery to improve the safety pos-
 24 ture of a school upon implementation; and

1 “(B) include information on Federal grant
2 programs for which implementation of each best
3 practice or recommendation is an eligible use
4 for the program.

5 “(3) PAST COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS.—
6 To the greatest extent practicable, the Clearinghouse
7 shall present, as appropriate, Federal, State, local,
8 Tribal, private sector, and nongovernmental organi-
9 zation issued best practices and recommendations
10 and identify any best practice or recommendation of
11 the Clearinghouse that was previously issued by any
12 such organization.

13 “(c) ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—The Secretary
14 may produce and publish materials on the Clearinghouse
15 to assist and train educational agencies and law enforce-
16 ment agencies on the implementation of the best practices
17 and recommendations.

18 “(d) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.—The Secretary
19 shall—

20 “(1) collect for the purpose of continuous im-
21 provement of the Clearinghouse—

22 “(A) Clearinghouse data analytics; and

23 “(B) user feedback on the implementation
24 of resources, best practices, and recommenda-
25 tions identified by the Clearinghouse; and

1 “(2) in coordination with the Secretary of Edu-
2 cation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
3 and the Attorney General—

4 “(A) regularly assess and identify Clear-
5 inghouse best practices and recommendations
6 for which there are no resources provided by
7 Federal Government programs for implementa-
8 tion; and

9 “(B) establish an external advisory board,
10 which shall be comprised of appropriate State,
11 local, private sector, and nongovernmental orga-
12 nizations, including organizations representing
13 parents of elementary and secondary school stu-
14 dents, to—

15 “(i) provide feedback on the imple-
16 mentation of best practices and rec-
17 ommendations of the Clearinghouse; and

18 “(ii) propose additional recommenda-
19 tions for best practices for inclusion in the
20 Clearinghouse.

21 “(e) PARENTAL ASSISTANCE.—The Clearinghouse
22 shall produce materials to assist parents and legal guard-
23 ians of students with identifying relevant Clearinghouse
24 resources and engaging with appropriate officials to sup-

1 port the implementation of Clearinghouse best practices
2 and recommendations.”.

3 (b) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—The table of con-
4 tents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of
5 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended
6 by inserting after the item relating to section 2214 the
7 following:

“Sec. 2215. Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices.”.

8 **SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION OF CLEARINGHOUSE.**

9 (a) **NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY OF EDU-**
10 **CATION.**—The Secretary of Education shall provide writ-
11 ten notification of the publication of the Federal Clearing-
12 house on School Safety Best Practices (referred to in this
13 section and section 4 as the “Clearinghouse”), as required
14 to be established under section 2215 of the Homeland Se-
15 curity Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act, to—

16 (1) every State and local educational agency;
17 and

18 (2) other Department of Education partners in
19 the implementation of the best practices and rec-
20 ommendations of the Clearinghouse, as determined
21 appropriate by the Secretary of Education.

22 (b) **NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY OF HOME-**
23 **LAND SECURITY.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security
24 shall provide written notification of the publication of the
25 Clearinghouse, as required to be established under section

1 2215 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added
 2 by section 2 of this Act, to—

3 (1) every State homeland security advisor;

4 (2) every State department of homeland secu-
 5 rity; and

6 (3) other Department of Homeland Security
 7 partners in the implementation of the best practices
 8 and recommendations of the Clearinghouse, as deter-
 9 mined appropriate by the Secretary of Homeland Se-
 10 curity.

11 (c) NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
 12 AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and
 13 Human Services shall provide written notification of the
 14 publication of the Clearinghouse, as required to be estab-
 15 lished under section 2215 of the Homeland Security Act
 16 of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act, to—

17 (1) every State department of public health;
 18 and

19 (2) other Department of Health and Human
 20 Services partners in the implementation of the best
 21 practices and recommendations of the Clearing-
 22 house, as determined appropriate by the Secretary of
 23 Health and Human Services.

24 (d) NOTIFICATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—
 25 The Attorney General shall provide written notification of

1 the publication of the Clearinghouse, as required to be es-
2 tablished under section 2215 of the Homeland Security
3 Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act, to—

4 (1) every State department of justice; and

5 (2) other Department of Justice partners in the
6 implementation of the best practices and rec-
7 ommendations of the Clearinghouse, as determined
8 appropriate by the Attorney General.

9 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM REVIEW.**

10 (a) **FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES.**—The Sec-
11 retary of Education, the Secretary of Homeland Security,
12 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the At-
13 torney General shall each—

14 (1) review all grant programs administered by
15 their respective agency and identify any grant pro-
16 gram that may be used to award grants for the pur-
17 poses of implementing best practices and rec-
18 ommendations of the Clearinghouse;

19 (2) identify any best practices and rec-
20 ommendations of the Clearinghouse for which there
21 is not a Federal grant program that may be award-
22 ed for the purposes of implementing the best prac-
23 tice or recommendation; and

24 (3) report any findings under paragraph (2) to
25 the appropriate committees of Congress.

1 (b) STATE GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—The Clearing-
2 house shall, to the extent practicable, identify, for each
3 State—

4 (1) each agency responsible for school safety in
5 the State, or any State that does not have such an
6 agency designated;

7 (2) any grant program that may be used to
8 award grants for the purposes of implementing best
9 practices and recommendations of the Clearing-
10 house; and

11 (3) any resources other than grant programs
12 that may be used to assist in implementation of best
13 practices and recommendations of the Clearing-
14 house.

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