

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate the installation of evidence-based suicide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and barriers, on certain infrastructure, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate the installation of evidence-based suicide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and barriers, on certain infrastructure, 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 “Barriers to Suicide
5 Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED LOCATION.—The term “covered
2 location” means—

3 (A) a bridge;

4 (B) a building;

5 (C) a parking garage;

6 (D) a highway-rail grade crossing; and

7 (E) a rail station.

8 (2) EVIDENCE-BASED SUICIDE DETERRENT.—

9 The term “evidence-based suicide deterrent” means
10 a suicide deterrent that—

11 (A) demonstrates, based on high-quality
12 research findings or a positive evaluation, that
13 the deterrent is likely to reduce or prevent sui-
14 cide; and

15 (B) continues to demonstrate the effects of
16 the deterrent.

17 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
18 the program established under subsection (b).

19 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Transportation.

21 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means—

22 (A) each of the several States;

23 (B) the District of Columbia;

24 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

1 (D) any other territory or possession of the
2 United States; and

3 (E) a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
6 tablish a program to provide grants, on a competitive
7 basis, to facilitate the installation of evidence-based sui-
8 cide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and bar-
9 riers, on or at a covered location.

10 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may make a
11 grant under the program to—

12 (1) a State or a political subdivision of a State;
13 and

14 (2) any other entity the Secretary determines to
15 be appropriate.

16 (d) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary may make
17 a grant under the program only for a project that facili-
18 tates the installation on or at a covered location of—

19 (1) a suicide prevention net;

20 (2) a suicide prevention barrier; or

21 (3) any other evidence-based suicide deterrent
22 that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

23 (e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
24 under the program, an eligible entity shall submit to the
25 Secretary an application in such form, at such time, and

1 containing such information as the Secretary determines
2 to be appropriate.

3 (f) PRIORITY.—In making a grant under the pro-
4 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to a project located
5 in an area—

6 (1) with a high rate of suicide, taking into con-
7 sideration the number of suicides and rate of sui-
8 cides per capita in an area; or

9 (2) that has other priority characteristics, as
10 determined by the Secretary.

11 (g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
12 of a project carried out with a grant under the program
13 may not exceed 80 percent.

14 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program
16 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

17 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL HIGHWAY PERFORMANCE PROGRAM.**

18 Section 119(d)(2)(I) of title 23, United States Code,
19 is amended by inserting “, including installation of safety
20 barriers and nets on bridges of the National Highway Sys-
21 tem” before the period at the end.

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF SUICIDE PREVEN-**
2 **TION NETS AND BARRIERS FOR STRUCTURES**
3 **OTHER THAN BRIDGES.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
5 States shall conduct a study to identify—

6 (1) the types of structures, other than bridges,
7 that attract a high number of individuals attempting
8 suicide-by-jumping;

9 (2) the characteristics that distinguish struc-
10 tures identified under paragraph (1) from similar
11 structures that do not attract a high number of indi-
12 viduals attempting suicide-by-jumping;

13 (3) the types of nets or barriers, including man-
14 ufactured and natural barriers, that are effective at
15 reducing suicide-by-jumping with respect to the
16 structures identified under paragraph (1);

17 (4) methods of reducing suicide-by-jumping
18 with respect to the structures identified under para-
19 graph (1) other than nets and barriers;

20 (5) quantitative measures of the effectiveness of
21 the nets and barriers identified under paragraph (3);

22 (6) quantitative measures of the effectiveness of
23 the additional methods identified under paragraph
24 (4);

25 (7) the entities that typically install the nets
26 and barriers identified under paragraph (3); and

1 (8) the costs of the nets and barriers identified
2 under paragraph (3).

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
5 United States shall submit a report on the results of the
6 study under subsection (a) to—

7 (1) the Committee on Transportation and In-
8 frastructure of the House of Representatives;

9 (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
10 the House of Representatives;

11 (3) the Committee on Health, Education,
12 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

13 (4) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
14 Transportation of the Senate.