

CAPITOL HILL DAY ISSUES BRIEF

Issue No. 1

**Authorize U.S. Department of Justice Grant Programs
for Hardware, Software and Training
for Campus Public Safety Agencies and Professionals**

March 18, 2010

IACLEA represents law enforcement and emergency response agencies at more than 1,200 institutions of higher education and more than 1,600 individual campus public safety professionals. Responsibilities of members include student and staff safety, the security of critical research programs, security of public venues, such as sports arenas, and infrastructure such as nuclear reactors. The challenge is to keep our nation's campuses both open and safe.

ISSUE: To authorize and fund a U.S. Justice Department matching grant programs for postsecondary institutions for use by campus public safety agencies. In 2008, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed comprehensive school safety legislation which included several provisions for college and university safety initiatives. Funding assistance through matching grants totaling \$50 million would support the purchase of security equipment and provide training to campus public safety professionals. Currently, no funds are directly authorized and funded by Congress for college and university safety and law enforcement programs. ^{1/}

BACKGROUND: Recent tragedies at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and the University of Alabama-Huntsville point to the challenges facing campus public safety agencies and personnel. Bringing the best in equipment and training to campuses by sharing costs through a Justice Department grant program will contribute to the ability of institutions of higher education to keep campuses open and safe.

Congress has played a role in school safety since the establishment of the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. Only recently has Congress acknowledged a federal role in postsecondary education security. With more than 15 million postsecondary students attending colleges and universities, the safety and security of students, staff and the physical plant require ever complex responses to personal and property threats.

College aged populations are at higher risk for binge drinking, sexual assault and suicide. College and university responses to these risks require a complex set of skills on the part of campus public safety professionals. Federal support for local law enforcement and first responders does not routinely include those on campuses and the proposed grant program would remedy this disparity.

REQUEST: IACLEA is seeking support for authorization of a U.S. Department of Justice matching grant program for equipment and training for campus public safety agencies and personnel. A \$50 million authorization and appropriation would be half the current per capita commitment Congress makes each year to local law enforcement agencies.

For more information, contact Lisa Phillips at IACLEA lphillips@iaclea.org or (304) 702-1698

^{1/} In 2008, Congress authorized but did not fund a U.S. Department of Education campus safety program. Emergency Management grants for higher education are funded for the current fiscal year within the US Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools.

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Issue No. 2

Authorize Equity in Grant Eligibility and Program Eligibility for Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education and their Campus Safety Personnel

March 18, 2010

IACLEA represents law enforcement and emergency response agencies at more than 1,200 institutions of higher education and more than 1,600 individual campus public safety professionals. Responsibilities of members include student and staff safety, the security of critical research programs, security of public venues, such as sports arenas, and infrastructure such as nuclear reactors. The challenge is to keep our nation's campuses both open and safe.

ISSUE: To amend current law to allow institutions of higher education, whether they are public or private, to access competitive grants for hardware such as body armor in existing matching grant programs and to allow sworn officers at both public and private institutions to qualify for federal death benefits for officers killed in the line of duty.

Public institutions and officers at public institution are now eligible under current law.

In 2008, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed comprehensive school safety legislation which included several provisions for college and university safety initiatives. The International Association of Chiefs of Police supports equity provisions.

BACKGROUND: Recent tragedies at Virginia Tech, the University of Alabama at Huntsville and Northern Illinois University point to the challenges facing campus public safety agencies and personnel. Bringing the best in equipment and training to campuses by sharing costs through a Justice Department grant program will contribute to the ability of institutions of higher education to keep campuses open and safe.

Congress has played a role in school safety since the establishment of the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. Only recently has Congress acknowledged a federal role in postsecondary education security. With more than 15 million postsecondary students attending colleges and universities, the safety and security of students, staff and the physical plant require ever complex responses to personal and property threats.

College aged populations are at higher risk for binge drinking, sexual assault and suicide. College and university responses to these risks require a complex set of skills on the part of campus public safety professionals. Federal support for local law enforcement and first responders does not routinely include those on campuses, especially private institutions, and proposed equity provision would remedy this disparity.

REQUEST: IACLEA is seeking support for authorization of a comprehensive campus security program within the U.S. Department of Justice which includes equity for campus public safety personnel at public and private institutions as they competitively apply for support for equipment. The other equity provision would treat officers killed in the line of duty on private campuses on par with those officers are killed at public institutions.

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Issue No. 3

Funds for New U.S. Department of Education Campus Public Safety Grants

March 18, 2010

IACLEA represents law enforcement and emergency response agencies at more than 1,200 institutions of higher education and more than 1,600 individual campus public safety professionals. Responsibilities of members include student and staff safety, the security of critical research programs, security of public venues, such as sports arenas, and infrastructure such as nuclear reactors. The challenge is to keep our nation's campuses both open and safe.

ISSUE: To secure funding for a newly authorized matching grant program for institutions of higher education. In 2008, Congress overwhelmingly passed the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act which included, for the first time, a program to support campus public safety programs. ^{1/}

BACKGROUND: Current federal support for local law enforcement and emergency response agencies is well over \$12 per capita for state and local entities. While campuses are part of larger communities, there is no direct source of federal support for people, places and programs of national importance which are hosted by our colleges and universities. In 2008, Congress acted to address this inequity by authorizing a program of matching grants to institutions of higher education in the Higher Education Act reauthorization. Funds would be used for hardware, software, training and mental health programs on our nation's campuses.

For the fiscal year 2010, Congress did direct funds to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools' Higher Education Emergency Preparedness program. Education funds for this program equal about 50 cents per student. The parameters of the program have yet to be established.

REQUEST: With more than 15 million full time equivalent students on campuses, according to the U.S. Department of Education, and with those students concentrated in age groups with high rates of substance abuse and sexual assault, a grant program that is half the federal commitment to law enforcement in general will begin to address the challenges on today's college and university campuses. A total appropriation of \$45 million will be a needed down payment on Congress's partnership with educational institutions.

IACLEA asks that the House and Senate appropriate funds for the new HEA campus public safety grants within the Department of Education for fiscal year 2011. The Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools in the President's budget is recommended for an increase in the coming fiscal year of over 15 percent or more than \$245 million.

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^{1/} Report to Senate Judiciary Committee, 2008, Congressional Research Service

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Issue No. 4

Establish a National Center for Campus Public Safety

March 18, 2010

IACLEA represents public safety, law enforcement and emergency response agencies at more than 1,200 institutions of higher education and more than 1,700 individual campus public safety professionals. Responsibilities of members include student and staff safety, the security of critical research programs, security of public facilities, such as sports arenas, and infrastructure, such as nuclear reactors. The challenge is to keep our nation's campuses both open and safe.

ISSUE: To authorize and fund a National Center for Campus Public Safety within the COPS Office at the U.S. Department of Justice. Earlier this Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved the creation of a National Center for Campus Public Safety to be established within the Justice Department. Legislation to establish the Center is pending consideration in the Senate.

BACKGROUND: Since 2004, the U.S. Department of Justice has been developing the idea of a National Center. Through an advisory committee, the Department has determined that a Center, to be located within the Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS Office), would fill a critical role in research and development of training programs to secure our nation's college and university campuses. Last year and again this year, the House passed legislation to establish the Center. In the Senate, a Center was authorized in a Judiciary Committee passed bill that established new programs for school safety and security. The House passed Center is now pending before the Senate.

Recent tragedies at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and the University of Alabama at Huntsville point to the challenges facing campus public safety agencies and personnel. Bringing the best in research and training to campuses through a National Center will contribute to the commitment of institutions of higher education to open and safe campuses.

REQUEST: IACLEA asks that the Senate pass legislation to establish a National Center and that each Chamber appropriate funds for the new program for fiscal year 2011. Specifically, within the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the U.S. Department of Justice, we ask for legislative language and report language as follows:

Up to \$2.75 million shall be used by the Department for the development and creation of a National Center for Campus Public Safety to be located within the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

This language allows funding at levels up to the House-authorization, but also allows discretion in the amounts to be used since the language places a cap on spending but no floor. In this approach, the intent of Congress and the interest of the COPS office can be melded into the beginning of this critical Center

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