



International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
Washington Office: PO Box 468/Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

ISSUES BRIEF

Establish a National Center for Campus Public Safety

IACLEA represents public safety, law enforcement and emergency response agencies at more than 1,200 institutions of higher education and more than 2,300 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 U.S. Department of Justice. In the last two Congresses, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved the creation of a National Center for Campus Public Safety to be established within the U.S. Department of Justice. Legislation to establish the Center is pending consideration in both the House and 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, identification of best practices and effective policies, and the development of training programs to secure our nation's college and university campuses. In the last two Congresses, the House of Representatives passed legislation to authorize a National Center by unanimous consent. The Center was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in a bipartisan vote, but stalled before full floor consideration.

Recent tragedies at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University 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 ensure open and safe campuses. Including components of mental health intervention as a function of the National Center addresses emerging problems of distressed students, staff and faculty recently and tragically seen at the University of Alabama, Huntsville and Pima Community College in Arizona.

REQUEST: IACLEA asks that Congress adopt legislation to establish a National Center and that each Chamber appropriate funds for the new program for fiscal year 2012 from research allocations within the U.S. Department of Justice. We recognize budget constraints and ask that a small portion of funds to be allocated for research programs be set aside for the Center in an amount not to exceed \$2.75 million, or 16 cents per student.



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Campus Public Safety and Emergency Management Grants

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ISSUE: In 2008, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which included a matching grant program to assist campus public safety agencies in areas such as emergency management training and the purchase of hardware, software and equipment. This grant program was authorized to offset expensive new requirements in the law for schools to develop and test emergency response procedures. This was the first program ever authorized by Congress to assist campus public safety agencies. No funds have been appropriated for this program and emergency response programs remain an unfunded mandate.

BACKGROUND: While Congress has recognized the national significance of safe and open campuses, the only source of appropriations has been through the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools through a program that provided emergency management grants for risk assessment and training. This discretionary program is slated for major changes during reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). With funding uncertain because of federal budget cuts and the possible elimination of some existing NCLB programs, the responsibility remains at our nation's colleges and universities to protect national priorities, but often without federal support. Campuses host community events from concerts to sporting events – identified as high value targets by the Department of Homeland Security. Campuses house critical research programs and store and/or remove biohazards and medical nuclear waste. More than a dozen nuclear reactors are on our nation's campuses. Campuses are locations that concentrate people, ideas and developing technologies critical to our nation's defense and economic well-being. These are national resources in need of protection, but without federal resources dedicated to protection.

REQUEST: That Congress appropriate funds authorized in the Higher Education Act Reauthorization of 2008 in the amount of \$50 million – or 20% of the current budget of the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools – to help secure college and university campuses.



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COMPREHENSIVE CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

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ISSUE: After tragic incidents on college and university campuses, Congress has responded with proposals to assist schools to keep them open and safe. On the overwhelming number of days when there are no incidents of concern on college campuses, the effectiveness of the increasingly complex profession of college and university campus public safety officers and agencies can lull the national consciousness into assuming the calm atmosphere for teaching, learning, research and community programs such as concerts and sporting events will not be breached. Yet a single shooter at Virginia Tech, or the actions of a disturbed student in Tucson, Arizona, shocked the nation and state and federal governments reacted to ensure such incidents do not occur again. Sadly, these efforts fade with yesterday's headlines. It is time to establish a program to assist the national assets of institutions of higher education and ensure that it is funded.

BACKGROUND: Introduced as S. 1217 in the 110th Congress, this comprehensive piece of legislation addresses security and safety needs of all institutions of higher education as well as K-12 schools. Portions of this bill have been spun off as free standing ideas, including the creation of a National Center for Campus Public Safety. Other key provisions of this proposal would establish a U.S. Department of Justice matching grant program for campus law enforcement and crime prevention and establish equity in death benefits for sworn officers at both public and private colleges and universities and equity in eligibility for private postsecondary institutions to apply for federal Department of Justice grants. The legislation was approved in Committee but has not come to a full vote of either the House or Senate. Similar legislation will be introduced this year by Senator Barbara Boxer of California.

REQUEST: **That Congress authorize and appropriate funds for the Comprehensive Campus Safety Act in recognition of the national importance of safe and open colleges and universities.**