

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 9059

To direct the Assistant Attorney General to award grants to the National Police Athletic/Activities League to improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities conducted by law enforcement personnel during non-school hours.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 29, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BACON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To direct the Assistant Attorney General to award grants to the National Police Athletic/Activities League to improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities conducted by law enforcement personnel during non-school hours.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Police Ath-  
3 letic/Activities League Youth Enrichment Reauthorization  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The goals of the National Police Athletic/  
8 Activities League and its member chapters are to—

9 (A) increase the academic success of youth  
10 participants in Police Athletic/Activities League  
11 programs, including in science, technology, en-  
12 gineering, and mathematics;

13 (B) promote a safe, healthy environment  
14 for youth under the supervision of law enforce-  
15 ment personnel where mutual trust and respect  
16 can be built;

17 (C) develop life-enhancing character and  
18 leadership skills in young people;

19 (D) increase school attendance by pro-  
20 viding alternatives to suspensions and expul-  
21 sions;

22 (E) reduce the juvenile crime rate in par-  
23 ticipating designated communities;

24 (F) reduce the number of police calls in-  
25 volving juveniles during non-school hours;

1 (G) teach youth protection skills, particu-  
2 larly those geared to the online world;

3 (H) provide youths with alternatives to  
4 drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gangs, and other activ-  
5 ity that is harmful to such youths and their  
6 communities;

7 (I) create positive communication and  
8 interaction between youth and law enforcement  
9 personnel;

10 (J) prepare youth for the workplace; and

11 (K) strengthen neighborhoods by bringing  
12 youth, families, and law enforcement together  
13 around shared programs and goals.

14 (2) The National Police Athletic/Activities  
15 League and its member chapters, during its over 85-  
16 year history as a national organization, has proven  
17 to be a positive force in the communities it serves.

18 (3) The National Police Athletic/Activities  
19 League has over 200 chartered Police Athletic/Ac-  
20 tivities League chapters throughout the United  
21 States, including the United States Virgin Islands,  
22 serving 2,000,000 youths, ages 5 to 18, nationwide.

23 (4) Based on National Police Athletic/Activities  
24 League chapter demographics, approximately 75  
25 percent of the youths who benefit from Police Ath-

1       letic/Activities League programs live in inner cities  
2       and urban areas.

3               (5) National Police Athletic/Activities League  
4       chapters are locally operated, volunteer-driven orga-  
5       nizations. Although most Police Athletic/Activities  
6       League chapters are sponsored by a law enforcement  
7       agency, National Police Athletic/Activities League  
8       chapters rarely receive funding from law enforce-  
9       ment agencies and are dependent in large part on  
10      support from the private sector, such as individuals,  
11      business leaders, corporations, and foundations. Na-  
12      tional Police Athletic/Activities League chapters have  
13      been exceptionally successful in balancing public  
14      funds with private sector donations and maximizing  
15      community involvement.

16              (6) Today's youth face far greater risks than  
17      did their parents and grandparents. Law enforce-  
18      ment statistics demonstrate that youth between the  
19      ages of 12 and 18 are at risk of committing violent  
20      acts and being victims of violent acts after school  
21      hours, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

22              (7) Greater numbers of students are dropping  
23      out of school and failing in school, even though the  
24      consequences of academic failure are more dire in  
25      2026 than ever before.

1           (8) The National Police Athletic/Activities  
2 League is the premier model for modern community  
3 policing and connecting cops to kids, based on the  
4 belief that young people, if reached early enough, are  
5 more likely to become productive adults and agents  
6 of change. It is dedicated to fostering positive rela-  
7 tionships between law enforcement and youth  
8 through recreational, educational, and mentorship  
9 programs.

10           (9) Many distressed areas in the United States  
11 are still underserved by Police Athletic/Activities  
12 League chapters.

13 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

14           The purpose of this Act is to provide adequate re-  
15 sources in the form of—

16           (1) assistance for the 200 established National  
17 Police Athletic/Activities League chapters to increase  
18 services to the communities they are serving;

19           (2) seed money for the establishment of 250  
20 (50 per year over a 5-year period) additional local  
21 Police Athletic/Activities League chapters in public  
22 housing projects and other distressed areas, includ-  
23 ing distressed areas with a majority population of  
24 Native Americans, by not later than fiscal year  
25 2032; and

1           (3) support of an annual gathering of Police  
2           Athletic/Activities League chapters and designated  
3           youth leaders from such chapters to participate in a  
4           3-day conference that addresses national and local  
5           issues impacting the youth of America and includes  
6           educational sessions to advance character and lead-  
7           ership skills.

8 **SEC. 4. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2028  
10          through 2032, the Assistant Attorney General shall award  
11          a grant to the National Police Athletic/Activities League  
12          to—

13                 (1) establish PAL chapters to serve public  
14                 housing projects and other distressed areas; and

15                 (2) expand existing PAL chapters to serve addi-  
16                 tional youths.

17          (b) APPLICATION.—

18                 (1) SUBMISSION.—To be eligible to receive a  
19                 grant under this section, the National Police Ath-  
20                 letic/Activities League shall submit to the Assistant  
21                 Attorney General an application, which shall in-  
22                 clude—

23                         (A) a long-term strategy to establish 250  
24                         additional PAL chapters and a detailed sum-  
25                         mary of those areas in which such new PAL

1 chapters will be established, or in which existing  
2 chapters will be expanded to serve additional  
3 youths, during the next fiscal year;

4 (B) a plan to ensure that there are not  
5 fewer than 500 PAL chapters in operation by  
6 January 1, 2032;

7 (C) a certification that there will be appro-  
8 priate coordination between new PAL chapters  
9 and those communities where such new PAL  
10 chapters will be located; and

11 (D) an explanation of how new PAL chap-  
12 ters will operate without additional Federal fi-  
13 nancial assistance once assistance under this  
14 Act is discontinued.

15 (2) REVIEW.—Not later than 120 days after  
16 the date of submission of an application under para-  
17 graph (1), the Assistant Attorney General shall take  
18 action on such application.

19 **SEC. 5. USE OF FUNDS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Police Athletic/Ac-  
21 tivities League shall use grant funds awarded under this  
22 Act to provide funding for—

23 (1) the establishment of PAL chapters serving  
24 public housing projects and other distressed areas;  
25 and

1 (2) the expansion of existing PAL chapters.

2 (b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Each PAL chapter  
3 assisted under paragraph (1) shall carry out not less than  
4 2 programs during non-school hours, of which—

5 (1) not less than 1 program shall provide—

6 (A) mentorship assistance and opportuni-  
7 ties;

8 (B) academic assistance;

9 (C) recreational and athletic activities;

10 (D) technology training; or

11 (E) character development and leadership  
12 training; and

13 (2) any remaining programs shall provide—

14 (A) activities to prevent use of drugs and  
15 alcohol and participation in gangs;

16 (B) health and nutrition counseling;

17 (C) cultural and social programs;

18 (D) conflict resolution training, anger  
19 management, and peer pressure resistance  
20 training;

21 (E) job skill preparation activities;

22 (F) safety skills conveying; or

23 (G) Youth Police Athletic League Con-  
24 ferences or Youth Forums.

1 (c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out  
2 the programs required under subsection (b), a PAL chap-  
3 ter shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

4 (1) recruit volunteers from businesses, academic  
5 communities, social organizations, and law enforce-  
6 ment organizations to serve as mentors or to other-  
7 wise assist with such programs;

8 (2) ensure that youth in the local community  
9 participate in designing the after-school activities;

10 (3) develop creative methods of conducting out-  
11 reach to youth in the community served;

12 (4) request donations of computer equipment  
13 and other materials and equipment; and

14 (5) work with State and local parks and recre-  
15 ation agencies to ensure that activities funded with  
16 grant funds awarded under this Act do not duplicate  
17 otherwise funded activities in the community served.

18 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

19 (a) REPORT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.—  
20 For each fiscal year in which a grant is awarded under  
21 this Act, the National Police Athletic/Activities League  
22 shall submit to the Assistant Attorney General a report  
23 on the use of grant funds awarded under this Act.

24 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than May 1  
25 of each fiscal year for which amounts are made available

1 to carry out this Act, the Assistant Attorney General shall  
2 submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate  
3 and of the House of Representatives a report that details  
4 the progress made under this Act in establishing and ex-  
5 panding PAL chapters in public housing projects and  
6 other distressed areas, and the effectiveness of PAL pro-  
7 grams in reducing drug misuse, school dropout rates, and  
8 juvenile crime.

9 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
11 priated to carry out this Act \$16,000,000 for each of fiscal  
12 years 2028 through 2032.

13 (b) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—The Attorney General  
14 may allocate funding appropriated to, or collected by the  
15 Department of Justice as determined appropriate by the  
16 Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General, to  
17 the extent that such allocations are not prohibited by law.

18 (c) FUNDING FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—Of  
19 the amount made available to carry out this Act in each  
20 fiscal year—

21 (1) not less than 2 percent shall be used for re-  
22 search and evaluation of the grant program under  
23 this Act;

1           (2) not less than 1 percent shall be used for  
2 technical assistance related to the use of grant funds  
3 awarded under this Act; and

4           (3) not less than 1 percent shall be used for the  
5 management and administration of the grant pro-  
6 gram under this Act, except that the total amount  
7 made available under this paragraph for administra-  
8 tion of such grant program may not exceed 6 per-  
9 cent.

10 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12           (1) ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The  
13 term “Assistant Attorney General” means the Attor-  
14 ney General, acting through the Assistant Attorney  
15 General for the Office of Justice Programs of the  
16 Department of Justice.

17           (2) DISTRESSED AREA.—The term “distressed  
18 area” means an urban, suburban, or rural area in  
19 which the percentage of high-risk youth residing in  
20 such area equals or exceeds 40 percent.

21           (3) HIGH-RISK YOUTH.—The term “high-risk  
22 youth” means an individual—

23                   (A) who has not attained 21 years of age;

1 (B) who is at high risk of becoming, or has  
2 become, a drug abuser or an alcohol abuser;  
3 and

4 (C) who—

5 (i) is identified as a child of a sub-  
6 stance abuser;

7 (ii) is a victim of physical, sexual, or  
8 psychological abuse;

9 (iii) has dropped out of school;

10 (iv) has become pregnant;

11 (v) is economically disadvantaged;

12 (vi) has committed a violent or delin-  
13 quent act;

14 (vii) has experienced mental health  
15 problems;

16 (viii) has attempted suicide; or

17 (ix) is disabled by injuries.

18 (4) PAL CHAPTER.—The term “PAL chapter”  
19 means a chapter of a Police or Sheriff’s Athletic/Ac-  
20 tivities League that is a member of the National Po-  
21 lice Athletic/Activities League.

22 (5) NATIONAL POLICE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES  
23 LEAGUE.—The term “National Police Athletic/Ac-  
24 tivities League” or “National PAL” means the pri-  
25 vate, nonprofit representative organization for Police

1 or Sheriff's Athletic/Activities Leagues throughout  
2 the United States, including the United States Vir-  
3 gin Islands.

4 (6) PUBLIC HOUSING; PROJECT.—The terms  
5 “public housing” and “project” have the meanings  
6 given those terms in section 3(b)(1) of the United  
7 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.  
8 1437a(b)(1)).

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