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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To establish a Task Force on Women in Law Enforcement to study and develop national hiring standards for law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Ross introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a Task Force on Women in Law Enforcement to study and develop national hiring standards for law enforcement officers, 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 “Supporting Women
5 with Career Opportunities in Policing Services Act of
6 2023” or the “Supporting Women COPS Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. TASK FORCE ON WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Task
3 Force on Women in Law Enforcement (referred to in this
4 section as the “Task Force”) to study State hiring stand-
5 ards for law enforcement officers, develop national hiring
6 standards for law enforcement officers, and develop rec-
7 ommendations for female officer retention and promotion.

8 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be com-
9 posed of 15 members, appointed by the Attorney General
10 as follows:

11 (1) One representative from the Civil Rights
12 Division of the Department of Justice.

13 (2) Two mayors.

14 (3) Three female police executives, one of whom
15 serves as the head of a municipal law enforcement
16 agency, one of whom serves as the head of a State
17 law enforcement agency, and one of whom serves as
18 the head of a sheriff’s department.

19 (4) Two female law enforcement officers with
20 the rank of lieutenant or below.

21 (5) Two representatives from community-based
22 organizations.

23 (6) Two academics or researchers who are ex-
24 perts in gender diversity and policing.

1 (7) One expert in medicine or anatomy who is
2 knowledgeable about the physical differences be-
3 tween male and female law enforcement officers.

4 (8) One representative from a law enforcement
5 accreditation or standards and training organization.

6 (9) One representative from a national law en-
7 forcement organization representing women.

8 (c) DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.—The duties of the
9 Task Force are as follows:

10 (1) To develop recommendations for national
11 hiring standards for law enforcement officers, in-
12 cluding standards for physical fitness, critical think-
13 ing, and communication skills, that do not disadvan-
14 tage applicants based on sex.

15 (2) To develop recommendations for female offi-
16 cer retention, addressing barriers including physical
17 fitness after childbirth and family responsibilities,
18 such as childcare.

19 (3) To develop recommendations for female ad-
20 vancement to leadership roles in law enforcement.

21 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall submit
23 to Congress a report that details its findings and rec-
24 ommendations.

1 **SEC. 3. INCENTIVIZING STATES TO ADOPT STANDARDS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the fiscal year that
3 begins after the development of the recommendations
4 under section 2(c), a State that adopts such recommenda-
5 tions shall receive, in addition to the amount that the
6 State otherwise receives under subpart 1 of part E of the
7 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act (34 U.S.C.
8 10151 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Edward Byrne
9 Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program”), an
10 amount that is equal to 5 percent of what such State re-
11 ceives under such subpart, which may be used for the pur-
12 poses authorized under such subpart.

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
15 essary to carry out subsection (a) for each fiscal year be-
16 ginning in the fiscal year that begins after the develop-
17 ment of the recommendations under section 2(c).

18 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is au-
20 thorized to provide technical assistance to assist
21 States in adopting the recommendations under sec-
22 tion 2(c).

23 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
24 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
25 may be necessary to carry out this subsection.