



The Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act (H.R. 2698)

This bipartisan legislation provides grant funding to conduct behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement departments at the state, local, and tribal levels. Law enforcement officers are often the first called to respond to mental health crises, and without adequate training the results are often tragic.

NATIONAL STATISTICS: Police response to mental health crises

- **One in every 10 calls** to police involve a person living with a mental illness.
- **At least one in four individuals** fatally shot by police had a serious mental illness
- **One in three people** transported to a hospital emergency room for psychiatric reasons are taken by the police.
- People with untreated mental illness are **16 times more likely to be killed** during a police encounter than other civilians approached or stopped by law enforcement

Law enforcement agencies are the most common first responders to behavioral health crises, even though many departments lack the funding they need to train officers in crisis response. **The Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act (H.R. 2698)** provides more departments with the funds to train officers to recognize, deescalate, and respond to individuals in a mental health crisis, protecting the safety of both the individual and the officer.

This bill provides grant funding for behavioral health crisis response training through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Byrne JAG program supplies grants to local law enforcement entities for public safety initiatives. Byrne JAG grants are always distributed to supplement available state and local grants and never to supplant them.



Funds mental health crisis response training.



Increases coordination between local mental health professionals, advocates, and law enforcement.



Increases safety for both individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and officers.

The Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act was introduced by Congresswoman Kendra Horn (OK-5) and Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (OH-16)

and has 25 bipartisan cosponsors. Sen. Jim Inhofe (OK) and Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH) have introduced a companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

Nationally, H.R. 2698 is endorsed by both the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Tactical Officers Association. More than a dozen organizations in Oklahoma have endorsed the legislation, including: Black Lives Matter – Oklahoma City, the NAACP Oklahoma City branch, Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Oklahoma, the Palomar Family Justice Center, the Oklahoma Policy Institute, the Oklahoma City Housing Authority, the Oklahoma City Police Department, the Midwest City Police Department, NorthCare, Cedar Ridge Behavioral Health, Oklahoma County Commissioner Carrie Blumert, and State Representative Collin Walke.

Cosponsors of the House bill include Reps. Jim Cooper, Henry Cuellar, Sharice Davids, Abby Finkenauer, Bill Johnson, Doug Lamborn, Daniel Lipinski, Ben Ray Lujan, Joseph D. Morelle, Grace F. Napolitano, Pete Olson, Dean Phillips, Mary Gay Scanlon, Kurt Schrader, Elissa Slotkin, Greg Stanton, Scott R. Tipton, Xochitl Torres Small, David J. Trone, Jefferson Van Drew, and Michael Waltz.