

HB23-1223 Task Force to Prioritize Grants Target Populations

Representatives Bacon & English

This bill creates a task force to establish shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for government and community-based agencies to reduce youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors through prioritizing grant funds to target communities. The task force will be made up of representatives from The Office of Gun Violence Prevention, the Department of Education, the Department of Early Childhood, the Department of Public Safety, and the Behavioral Health Administration to work together to increase the effectiveness of communication and data sharing.

The Problem:

Colorado General Assembly finds and declares that there is an ongoing crisis of youth violence and suicide deaths that require inter-agency response and involvement from Non-Profit Organizations. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention, Department of Education, Department of Early Childhood, Department of Public Safety, and the Behavioral Health Administration, has been directed by the General Assembly to administer grants and collect data regarding youth violence and suicide. However, the current organizational structure that these agencies operate in creates silos. Silos remain to be an obstacle for communities to receive adequate resources.

- Some communities experience disproportionately high levels of youth violence.
- Despite the overlapping work of these five agencies, neighborhoods remain underserved.
- Local organizations have different levels of access and capacity, which creates inequalities in grant applications and administration processes.

Solution:

HB23-1223 will establish a task force between The Office of Gun Violence Prevention, the Department of Education, the Department of Early Childhood, the Department of Public Safety, and the Behavioral Health Administration that will:

- Bring together diverse perspectives from government agencies and community organizations.
- Identify target communities where there are disproportionately high levels of youth violence.
- Establish clear and shared goals, objectives, and guidelines to prioritize and align resources to guide intervention, prevention, and tracking statics.
- Establish clear shared goals and guidelines to prioritize the distribution of existing and new grant money across multiple governmental agencies.

Outcomes:

Through this task force, we will have clear indicators for establishing priority zones and directing resources to these areas for the goals of guiding intervention, prevention, and tracking statics, that would make the highest impact on reducing youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors in priority communities.