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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for victims of crime to be notified of firearms-related activity by the offender, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. DINGELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for victims of crime to be notified of firearms-related activity by the offender, 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 “Domestic Violence Sur-
5 vivors Alerted For Emergency Notice Act” or the “Domes-
6 tic Violence SAFE Notice Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 925D
4 the following:

5 **“§ 925E. Notification to firearms access victim noti-**
6 **cation system of prohibited purchase or**
7 **attempted purchase of a firearm.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

9 “(1) VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Bureau
11 of Investigation shall, in consultation with ap-
12 propriate State, local, and Tribal agencies, in-
13 cluding agencies responsible for management of
14 criminal history records and victim notification
15 systems, establish a firearms access victim noti-
16 fication system to notify crime victims (as de-
17 fined in section 3771(e)(2)) harmed by offenses
18 under section 117, 1591, 2261, 2261A, or 2262
19 (hereinafter referred to as crime victims) who
20 have registered to be notified, as provided by
21 this section, of firearms-related activity by the
22 offender. This system shall allow victims of
23 such crimes to register for notifications and to
24 deregister at will. Victim information provided
25 for use in the firearms access victim notification

1 system shall only be used for firearms access
2 notification purposes.

3 “(B) CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO
4 PARDONED OFFENDERS.—Notification to a
5 crime victim under subparagraph (A) shall—

6 “(i) not apply with respect to fire-
7 arms-related activity by an offender who
8 has received a pardon or restoration of
9 rights with respect to the offense pursuant
10 to which the crime victim registered to re-
11 ceive such notifications; and

12 “(ii) still apply with respect to fire-
13 arms-related activity by an offender who
14 has received a pardon or restoration of
15 rights with respect to an offense other
16 than the offense pursuant to which the
17 crime victim registered to receive such no-
18 tifications.

19 “(2) LEGAL GUARDIANS AND REPRESENTA-
20 TIVES; RELATED OFFENDERS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the event that a
22 crime victim is under 18 years of age, incom-
23 petent, or incapacitated, the victim notification
24 system under paragraph (1) shall allow the
25 legal guardians of the crime victim, or any

1 other persons permitted by law to represent the
2 crime victim, to register and deregister for noti-
3 fication and send relevant notifications to such
4 legal guardian or representative as if such legal
5 guardian or representative were a crime victim
6 for purposes of the victim notification system.

7 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In no event shall an
8 offender against a crime victim be permitted to
9 serve as the legal guardian or representative for
10 the crime victim under subparagraph (A).

11 “(b) REGISTRATION.—

12 “(1) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—No indi-
13 vidual shall be registered to be notified under this
14 section unless such individual provides to the fire-
15 arms access victim notification system—

16 “(A) registration with the Victim Notifica-
17 tion System established under section 20101(d)
18 of title 34, United States Code, shall be suffi-
19 cient to verify an individual’s eligibility to reg-
20 ister under this section; or

21 “(B) all information necessary, as deter-
22 mined by the Attorney General, to verify the
23 eligibility of such individual to register to be no-
24 tified under subsection (a).

1 “(2) QUALIFYING OFFENDERS.—Upon registra-
2 tion of a crime victim under subsection (a), the fire-
3 arms access victim notification system shall provide
4 to the National Instant Criminal Background Check
5 System the names of any offender against such
6 crime victim covered by subsection (a)(1).

7 “(c) NOTIFICATION TO FIREARMS ACCESS VICTIM
8 NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a back-
10 ground check on an offender described in subsection
11 (a)(1) conducted by the National Instant Criminal
12 Background Check System established under section
13 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act
14 (34 U.S.C. 40901), pursuant to the request of a li-
15 censed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed
16 dealer of firearms, that determines the receipt of a
17 firearm by the individual would be unlawful:

18 “(A) The National Instant Criminal Back-
19 ground System shall notify the firearms access
20 victim notification system of the attempted fire-
21 arm acquisition.

22 “(B) If such determination is made after 3
23 business days, or more than 3 days if the num-
24 ber of days under State law within which the
25 determination must be made is greater, after

1 which time a firearm can be transferred, or, in
2 the case that the offender is less than 21 years
3 of age, the number of days under section 103(l)
4 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act
5 (34 U.S.C. 40901(l)) within which the deter-
6 mination must be made, have elapsed since the
7 licensee contacted the system and a firearm has
8 been transferred to that offender—

9 “(i) the National Instant Criminal
10 Background System shall notify the fire-
11 arms access victim notification system that
12 the offender possesses a firearm; and

13 “(ii) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
14 Firearms, and Explosives shall notify the
15 firearms access victim notification system
16 upon retrieval of firearms transferred as
17 described in this subsection.

18 “(C) If an attempted firearm acquisition
19 results in the arrest of the offender by a Fed-
20 eral law enforcement agency, the agency shall
21 notify the firearms access victim notification
22 system.

23 “(D) If such determination is reversed
24 upon appeal, the National Instant Criminal
25 Background Check System shall notify the fire-

1 arms access victim notification system. In the
2 event that the reversal is due to a finding that
3 the individual who attempted to purchase the
4 firearm was not the offender, the notification
5 shall include the reason for the reversal.

6 “(2) PARDONS.—In the case of a Presidential
7 pardon of an offender for an offense under section
8 1591, 2261, 2261A, or 2262, the Office of the Par-
9 don Attorney of the Department of Justice shall no-
10 tify the firearms access victim notification system.

11 “(3) RELIEF FROM DISABILITIES.—In the case
12 of a successful application or petition for relief from
13 disabilities under section 925(c), the Attorney Gen-
14 eral shall notify the firearms access victim notifica-
15 tion system.

16 “(d) NOTIFICATIONS TO CRIME VICTIMS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The firearms access victim
18 notification system shall notify the crime victim
19 upon receipt of information described in subsection
20 (c)(1), (c)(2), or (c)(3). In the case of a notification
21 under subsection (c)(2) or (c)(3), the notification
22 shall include a statement that the pardoned or re-
23 lieved individual is no longer prohibited from pos-
24 sessing firearms due to the pardoned offense or of-
25 fense for which the individual successfully applied or

1 petitioned for relief under section 925(c), although
2 the individual may be prohibited due to other of-
3 fenses. A notification issued pursuant this paragraph
4 shall include contact information for the hotline de-
5 scribed in section 313 of the Family Violence Pre-
6 vention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10413).

7 “(2) RETENTION OF INFORMATION.—The fire-
8 arms access victim notification system shall retain
9 any information transmitted from the National In-
10 stant Background Check System pursuant to sub-
11 section (c) for no longer than 24 hours following the
12 issuance of a notification to a crime victim under
13 paragraph (1).

14 “(e) ANNUAL NOTICES.—The firearms access victim
15 notification shall annually send a notice to crime victims
16 to inform them that they are registered to receive notifica-
17 tions under this section.

18 “(f) OUTREACH.—The Attorney General shall con-
19 duct necessary outreach to victims of crimes described in
20 section 117, 1591, 2261, 2261A, or 2262, to educate
21 crime victims about their right to register or deregister
22 for the firearms access victim notification system. Upon
23 the conviction of an offender for 1 or more of these crimes,
24 the prosecuting attorney shall notify the crime victim of
25 their ability to register or deregister for the firearms ac-

1 cess victim notification system. Crime victims shall be in-
2 formed upon registration with the firearms access victim
3 notification system of the conditions under which an at-
4 tempt by an offender or respondent to purchase a firearm
5 will result in the crime victim receiving a notification.

6 “(g) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
7 section may be construed to create any right or benefit,
8 substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity
9 by any party, against the United States, its departments,
10 agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or
11 any other person.

12 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
14 essary to carry out this section.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 for chapter 44 of title 18 is amended by inserting after
17 the item relating to section 925D the following:

“925E. Notification to firearms access victim notification system of prohibited
purchase or attempted purchase of a firearm.”.

18 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM FOR REPORTING OF BACK-**
19 **GROUND CHECK DENIALS AND STATUS**
20 **CHANGES TO STATE VICTIM NOTIFICATION**
21 **SYSTEMS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United
23 States Code, as amended by section 2 of this Act, is
24 amended by inserting after section 925E the following:

1 **“§ 925F. Pilot program for reporting of background**
2 **check denials and status changes to State**
3 **victim notification systems**

4 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
6 tity’ means a State or Tribe with a victim notifica-
7 tion system.

8 “(2) OFFENDER.—The term ‘offender’ means
9 an individual who is—

10 “(A) convicted of a prohibiting domestic vi-
11 olence offense; or

12 “(B) under indictment for a domestic vio-
13 lence offense under Federal, State, local, or
14 Tribal law punishable by imprisonment for a
15 term exceeding 1 year.

16 “(3) PARTIAL POINT OF CONTACT STATE.—The
17 term ‘partial point of contact State’ means a State
18 in which State agencies and the National Instant
19 Criminal Background Check System share responsi-
20 bility for conducting firearms background checks.

21 “(4) POINT OF CONTACT STATE.—The term
22 ‘point of contact State’ means a State that has elect-
23 ed to have State agencies conduct all firearms back-
24 ground checks.

1 “(5) PROHIBITING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT
2 ORDER.—The term ‘prohibiting domestic violence
3 court order’ means—

4 “(A) a court order described in section
5 922(g)(8);

6 “(B) a domestic violence court order (as
7 defined by the laws of the applicable jurisdic-
8 tion), that restricts the respondent from pur-
9 chasing, possessing, or receiving firearms or a
10 certain type of firearm under the laws of such
11 jurisdiction; or

12 “(C) a domestic violence court order (as
13 defined by the laws of the applicable jurisdic-
14 tion) that, by its terms, restricts the respondent
15 from purchasing, possessing, or receiving fire-
16 arms or a certain type of firearm.

17 “(6) PROHIBITING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OF-
18 FENSE.—The term ‘prohibiting domestic violence of-
19 fense’ means a domestic violence offense that re-
20 stricts the offender from purchasing or possessing or
21 receiving firearms under the laws of the applicable
22 jurisdiction.

23 “(7) QUALIFYING PROHIBITING DOMESTIC VIO-
24 LENCE OFFENSE.—The term ‘qualifying prohibiting
25 domestic violence offense’ means an offense under

1 Federal law or the laws of the applicable jurisdiction
2 that, as determined by such jurisdiction, qualify as
3 a prohibiting domestic violence offense for the pur-
4 poses of this section.

5 “(8) RESPONDENT.—The term ‘respondent’
6 means an individual subject to a prohibiting domes-
7 tic violence court order.

8 “(9) VICTIM.—The term ‘victim’—

9 “(A) means a victim of a prohibiting do-
10 mestic violence offense;

11 “(B) includes an individual protected by a
12 prohibiting domestic violence court order; and

13 “(C) with respect to registration for,
14 deregistration from, or receipt of a notification
15 from a victim notification system, includes a
16 legal guardian of, or another person authorized
17 by law to represent, an individual described in
18 subparagraph (A) or (B) who is a minor, except
19 that such legal guardian or representative may
20 not be an offender against, or a respondent
21 subject to a prohibiting domestic violence court
22 order for an offense against, such individual de-
23 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B).

24 “(10) VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—The
25 term ‘victim notification system’ means—

1 “(A) a system described in section 1404E
2 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C.
3 20108), or a system designed to notify victims
4 of any actions relating to such court order, that
5 has the capacity to reconcile the data of a vic-
6 tim and an offender or respondent and to main-
7 tain confidentiality of the victim; and

8 “(B) which—

9 “(i) does not apply with respect to
10 firearms-related activity by an offender
11 who has received a pardon or restoration
12 of rights with respect to the offense pursu-
13 ant to which the victim registered to re-
14 ceive such notifications; and

15 “(ii) still applies with respect to fire-
16 arms-related activity by an offender who
17 has received a pardon or restoration of
18 rights with respect to an offense other
19 than the offense pursuant to which the vic-
20 tim registered to receive such notifications.

21 “(b) GRANTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, act-
23 ing through the Office on Victims of Crime, shall
24 make grants to eligible entities to upgrade the victim

1 notification systems of the eligible entities to carry
2 out the activities described in subsection (c).

3 “(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the grants de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1) is to enable State or Tribal
5 victim notification systems to notify victims of an at-
6 tempt by an offender or respondent to acquire a fire-
7 arm if a background check is conducted by the Na-
8 tional Instant Criminal Background Check System
9 or appropriate State agency pursuant to the request
10 of a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or li-
11 censed dealer of firearms that determines that the
12 receipt of a firearm by a person would violate Fed-
13 eral, State, local, or Tribal law due to a prohibiting
14 domestic violence offense or prohibiting domestic vio-
15 lence court order.

16 “(3) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding the grants
17 described in paragraph (1), the Attorney General,
18 acting through the Office on Victims of Crime, shall,
19 to the extent practicable, select a diverse mix of eli-
20 gible entities so as to maximize the ability of the
21 grants, on the whole, to help identify issues and de-
22 termine the efficacy of permanent programs in all
23 jurisdictions.

24 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—

1 “(1) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity
2 receiving a grant under this section shall use the
3 grant funds to—

4 “(A) build the capacity of or establish a
5 victim notification system—

6 “(i) by which victims shall—

7 “(I) be able to voluntarily reg-
8 ister for or deregister from at any
9 time;

10 “(II) be given the option to re-
11 main registered with the system upon
12 the completion of the sentence of the
13 offender in the case of a prohibiting
14 domestic violence offense if the vic-
15 tims were added to the victim notifica-
16 tion system due to the incarceration
17 of the offender;

18 “(III) be informed upon registra-
19 tion with the system of the conditions
20 under which an attempt by an of-
21 fender or respondent to purchase a
22 firearm will result in the victim receiv-
23 ing a notification; and

24 “(IV) receive annual notice that
25 they are registered to receive notifica-

1 tions through the victim notification
2 system; and

3 “(ii) in consultation with stakeholders,
4 including State or Tribal domestic violence
5 coalitions, domestic violence service pro-
6 viders, and culturally specific programs;

7 “(B) establish a mechanism by which the
8 victim notification system can receive reports,
9 consistent with State law, from—

10 “(i) the National Instant Criminal
11 Background Check System or, in the case
12 of a point of contact State or partial point
13 of contact State, the appropriate State
14 agency that—

15 “(I) an offender or respondent
16 attempted to acquire a firearm if a
17 background check conducted pursuant
18 to the request of a licensed importer,
19 licensed manufacturer, or licensed
20 dealer of firearms determines that the
21 receipt of a firearm by the offender or
22 respondent would violate Federal,
23 State, local, or Tribal law due to a
24 prohibiting domestic violence offense

1 or a prohibiting domestic violence
2 court order; or

3 “(II) a firearm has been trans-
4 ferred to the offender or respondent if
5 the determination described in sub-
6 clause (I) is made after—

7 “(aa) 3 business days;

8 “(bb) more than 3 business
9 days if the number of days under
10 State law within which the deter-
11 mination must be made is great-
12 er, after which time a firearm
13 can be transferred have elapsed
14 since the licensee contacted the
15 system or State agency; or

16 “(cc) in the case the of-
17 fender or respondent is less than
18 21 years of age, the number of
19 days under section 103(l) of the
20 Brady Handgun Violence Preven-
21 tion Act (34 U.S.C. 40901(l))
22 within which the determination
23 must be made;

24 “(ii) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
25 Firearms, and Explosives or appropriate

1 State agency that a firearm transferred as
2 described in clause (i)(II) is retrieved;

3 “(iii) an applicable law enforcement
4 agency if an attempted firearm acquisition
5 results in the arrest of the offender by
6 such agency;

7 “(iv) the National Instant Criminal
8 Background Check System or appropriate
9 State or Tribal agency that—

10 “(I) a determination that receipt
11 of the firearm by a person would vio-
12 late Federal, State, local, or Tribal
13 law due to a prohibiting domestic vio-
14 lence offense or a prohibiting domestic
15 violence court order is reversed upon
16 appeal; and

17 “(II) the reason for a reversal
18 described in subclause (I) if the rever-
19 sal is due to a finding that the indi-
20 vidual who attempted to purchase the
21 firearm was not the offender or the
22 respondent;

23 “(v) appropriate Federal, State, or
24 Tribal agencies that—

1 “(I) the conviction for the pro-
2 hibiting domestic violence offense is
3 expunged or set aside;

4 “(II) the person has been par-
5 doned for the offense or has had civil
6 rights restored unless the pardon,
7 expungement, or restoration of civil
8 rights expressly provides that the per-
9 son may not ship, transport, possess,
10 or receive firearms; or

11 “(III) the person has been grant-
12 ed relief from Federal, State, or Trib-
13 al firearms disabilities but that such
14 person may still be prohibited from
15 possessing firearms due to other of-
16 fenses or disqualifying court orders;

17 “(vi) appropriate Federal, State, or
18 Tribal agencies that a disqualifying record
19 is removed from the National Instant
20 Criminal Background Check System or
21 State or Tribal database due to the expira-
22 tion of a time-limited Federal, State, or
23 Tribal firearm restriction; or

24 “(vii) as relevant, information pro-
25 vided by licensed dealers;

1 “(C) improve the ability of the relevant
2 Federal, State, or Tribal agencies to notify a
3 victim pursuant to a report received under sub-
4 paragraph (B);

5 “(D) notify victims of reports received pur-
6 suant to subparagraph (B), including pro-
7 viding—

8 “(i) the contact information for the
9 hotline described in section 313 of the
10 Family Violence Prevention and Services
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 10413); and

12 “(ii) information about relevant State-
13 based or Tribal-based resources;

14 “(E) provide training for judges, judicial
15 personnel, domestic violence advocates, prosecu-
16 tors, law enforcement, attorneys, and others on
17 notifying victims of their ability to register with
18 the victim notification system and of registra-
19 tion procedures;

20 “(F) periodically review and update as nec-
21 essary the list of qualifying prohibiting domestic
22 violence offenses submitted pursuant to sub-
23 section (d)(3); and

24 “(G) develop best practices for carrying
25 out the requirements in this subsection.

1 “(2) OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Eligible entities
2 receiving grants under this section may use the
3 grant funds to take other such actions as are nec-
4 essary to enable State victim notification systems to
5 notify victims of an attempt of an offender or re-
6 spondent to acquire a firearm.

7 “(3) TIMELINE.—An eligible entity that re-
8 ceives a grant under this section shall—

9 “(A) implement the mandatory activities
10 under paragraph (1) not later than 3 years
11 after receiving the grant; and

12 “(B) continue the victim notification sys-
13 tem for not fewer than 3 years.

14 “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity shall submit
15 an application to the Attorney General that includes—

16 “(1) a description of the existing victim notifi-
17 cation system, including—

18 “(A) in what agency the victim notification
19 system resides;

20 “(B) a description of the circumstances in
21 which victims are currently added to the victim
22 notification system; and

23 “(C) the manner in which victims are noti-
24 fied through the victim notification system;

1 “(2) an initial list of entities that will be in-
2 volved in establishing the process by which victims
3 can register with the victim notification system and
4 deregister from the victim notification system;

5 “(3) an initial list of qualifying prohibiting do-
6 mestic violence offenses within the jurisdiction of the
7 entity; and

8 “(4) any other information required by the At-
9 torney General.

10 “(e) REPORT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

11 “(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
12 after receiving a grant under this section, an eligible
13 entity shall submit to the Attorney General a report
14 that details the plan of the entity for implementation
15 of the program under subsection (c).

16 “(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
18 after implementing the victim notification sys-
19 tem under subsection (c), and not later than 2
20 years thereafter, an eligible entity shall submit
21 to the Attorney General reports that describe
22 the victim notification system implemented
23 under subsection (c), including with respect
24 to—

25 “(i) viability;

1 “(ii) cost;

2 “(iii) use;

3 “(iv) challenges; and

4 “(v) best practices for implementing
5 the victim notification system.

6 “(B) CONTENTS OF FINAL REPORT.—An
7 eligible entity shall include in the second report
8 submitted under subparagraph (A) rec-
9 ommendations for future nationwide implemen-
10 tation of the program implemented by the eligi-
11 ble entity.

12 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
13 year after the Attorney General receives all reports
14 under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General
15 shall submit to Congress a report analyzing the in-
16 formation received in such reports that includes—

17 “(A) a description of challenges encoun-
18 tered;

19 “(B) recommendations for Congress to im-
20 prove or expand the grant program under this
21 section; and

22 “(C) an analysis of the feasibility of using
23 a single, Federally operated notification system.

24 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
25 tion to any amounts otherwise appropriated to the Crime

1 Victims Fund, there is authorized to be appropriated to
2 carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
3 2027 through 2031.

4 “(g) REPORTS.—As relevant, the Federal Bureau of
5 Investigation, through the National Instant Criminal
6 Background Check System, and the Bureau of Alcohol,
7 Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives shall provide the re-
8 ports described in subsection (c)(1)(B) to recipients of a
9 grant under this section not later than 24 hours after an
10 event requiring the provision of such report.

11 “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
12 tion may be construed to create any right or benefit, sub-
13 stantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by
14 any party, against the United States, its departments,
15 agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or
16 any other person.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
18 for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, as amended
19 by section 2 of this Act, is amended by inserting after
20 the item relating to section 925E the following:

“925F. Pilot program for reporting of background check denials and status
changes to State victim notification systems.”.

21 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

22 Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this
23 Act, shall be construed to affect an individual’s right to

- 1 possess, receive, ship, or transport a firearm that is other-
- 2 wise permitted by law.