

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1886

To establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Ms. HASSAN

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pray Safe Act of
5 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **CLEARINGHOUSE.**—The term “Clearing-
9 house” means the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety
10 and Security Best Practices for Nonprofit Organiza-

1 tions, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of
2 Worship established under section 3(a).

3 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
4 means the Department of Homeland Security.

5 (3) FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The term
6 “faith-based organization” means a group, center, or
7 nongovernmental organization with a religious, ideo-
8 logical, or spiritual motivation, character, affiliation,
9 or purpose that meets the definition of nonprofit or-
10 ganization.

11 (4) HOUSE OF WORSHIP.—The term “house of
12 worship” means a place or building, including a syn-
13 agogue, mosque, temple, and church, in which
14 congregants practice their religious or spiritual be-
15 liefs.

16 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
17 “nonprofit organization” means an organization—

18 (A) of the type described in subsection
19 (c)(3) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue
20 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under
21 subsection (a) of such section; and

22 (B) determined to be at risk of a terrorist
23 attack or other threat by the Secretary.

24 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY.—The term “safety
25 and security” means prevention of, protection

1 against, or recovery from threats and incidents, in-
2 cluding natural disasters, manmade disasters, or ter-
3 rorist attacks.

4 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

6 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SAFETY AND SECU-**
7 **RITY BEST PRACTICES FOR NONPROFIT OR-**
8 **GANIZATIONS, FAITH-BASED ORGANIZA-**
9 **TIONS, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP.**

10 (a) FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270
13 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
14 the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney
15 General, the Executive Director of the White
16 House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood
17 Partnerships, and the head of any other agency
18 the Secretary determines appropriate, shall es-
19 tablish within the Department a Federal Clear-
20 inghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices
21 for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Orga-
22 nizations, and Houses of Worship.

23 (B) PURPOSE.—The Clearinghouse shall
24 be the primary resource of the Federal Govern-
25 ment to—

1 (i) educate and publish online best
2 practices and recommendations for safety
3 and security for nonprofit organizations,
4 including faith-based organizations, and
5 houses of worship; and

6 (ii) provide information relating to
7 Federal grant programs available to non-
8 profit organizations, including faith-based
9 organizations, and houses of worship.

10 (C) PERSONNEL.—

11 (i) ASSIGNMENTS.—The Clearing-
12 house shall be assigned such personnel and
13 resources as the Secretary considers appro-
14 priate to carry out this subsection.

15 (ii) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may
16 coordinate detailees on a reimbursable or a
17 nonreimbursable basis as required for the
18 Clearinghouse.

19 (iii) DESIGNATED POINT OF CON-
20 TACT.—

21 (I) IN GENERAL.—There shall be
22 not fewer than 1 employee assigned or
23 detailed to the Clearinghouse who
24 shall be the designated point of con-
25 tact to provide information and assist-

1 ance to nonprofit organizations, in-
2 cluding faith-based organizations, and
3 houses of worship, including assist-
4 ance relating to the grant program es-
5 tablished under subsection (c).

6 (II) CONTACT INFORMATION.—
7 The contact information of the des-
8 ignated point of contact under sub-
9 clause (I) shall be made available on
10 the website of the Clearinghouse.

11 (iv) QUALIFICATION.—To the max-
12 imum extent possible, any personnel as-
13 signed or detailed to the Clearinghouse
14 under this subparagraph should be familiar
15 with nonprofit organizations, including
16 faith-based organizations, and houses of
17 worship and with physical and online secu-
18 rity measures to identify and prevent safe-
19 ty and security risks.

20 (2) CLEARINGHOUSE CONTENTS.—

21 (A) EVIDENCE-BASED TIERS.—

22 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in
23 consultation with the Attorney General, the
24 Executive Director of the White House Of-
25 fice of Faith-Based and Neighborhood

1 Partnerships, and the head of any other
2 agency the Secretary determines appro-
3 priate, shall develop tiers for determining
4 evidence-based best practices and rec-
5 ommendations that demonstrate a signifi-
6 cant effect on improving safety and secu-
7 rity of nonprofit organizations, including
8 faith-based organizations, and houses of
9 worship.

10 (ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The tiers re-
11 quired to be developed under clause (i)
12 shall—

13 (I) prioritize—

14 (aa) strong evidence from
15 not fewer than 1 well-designed
16 and well-implemented experi-
17 mental study; and

18 (bb) moderate evidence from
19 not fewer than 1 well-designed
20 and well-implemented quasi-ex-
21 perimental study; and

22 (II) consider promising evidence
23 that demonstrates a rationale based
24 on high-quality research findings or
25 positive evaluations that the activity,

1 strategy, or intervention is likely to
2 improve and promote safety and secu-
3 rity of nonprofit organizations, includ-
4 ing faith-based organizations, and
5 houses of worship.

6 (B) CRITERIA FOR BEST PRACTICES AND
7 RECOMMENDATIONS.—The best practices and
8 recommendations referred to in paragraph
9 (1)(B)(i) of the Clearinghouse shall, at a min-
10 imum—

11 (i) identify areas of concern for non-
12 profit organizations, including faith-based
13 organizations, and houses of worship, in-
14 cluding event planning recommendations,
15 checklists, facility hardening, tabletop exer-
16 cise resources, and other resilience meas-
17 ures;

18 (ii) involve comprehensive safety and
19 security measures, including threat preven-
20 tion, preparedness, protection, mitigation,
21 incident response, and recovery to improve
22 the safety and security posture of non-
23 profit organizations, including faith-based
24 organizations, and houses of worship upon
25 implementation;

1 (iii) involve comprehensive safety and
2 security measures, including preparedness,
3 protection, mitigation, incident response,
4 and recovery to improve the resiliency of
5 nonprofit organizations, including faith-
6 based organizations, and houses of worship
7 from threats and incidents, including nat-
8 ural disasters, manmade disasters, or ter-
9 rorist attacks or other threats;

10 (iv) include any evidence or research
11 rationale supporting the determination of
12 the Clearinghouse that the comprehensive
13 safety and security measures under clauses
14 (ii) and (iii) have been shown to have a
15 significant effect on improving the safety
16 and security of individuals who, at the time
17 of any such threat or incident, are phys-
18 ically located in the place or building of a
19 nonprofit organization, including a faith-
20 based organization, or a house of worship,
21 including—

22 (I) findings and data from pre-
23 vious Federal, State, local, Tribal, ter-
24 ritorial, private sector, and nongovern-
25 mental organization research centers

1 relating to the safety and security of
2 nonprofit organizations, including
3 faith-based organizations, and houses
4 of worship, including from targeted vi-
5 olence; and

6 (II) other supportive evidence or
7 findings relied upon by the Clearing-
8 house in determining best practices
9 and recommendations to improve the
10 safety and security posture of non-
11 profit organizations, including faith-
12 based organizations, and houses of
13 worship upon implementation; and

14 (v) include an overview of the avail-
15 able resources the Clearinghouse can pro-
16 vide to nonprofit organizations and houses
17 of worship.

18 (C) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The
19 Clearinghouse shall maintain and make avail-
20 able a comprehensive index of all Federal grant
21 programs for which nonprofit organizations, in-
22 cluding faith-based organizations, and houses of
23 worship are eligible, which shall include the per-
24 formance metrics the recipient will be required
25 to provide for each grant.

1 (II) user feedback on the imple-
2 mentation of resources, best practices,
3 and recommendations identified by
4 the Clearinghouse; and

5 (III) any evaluations conducted
6 regarding implementation of such best
7 practices and recommendations;

8 (ii) in coordination with the Faith-
9 Based Security Advisory Council of the
10 Department, the Department of Justice,
11 the Executive Director of the White House
12 Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood
13 Partnerships, and any other agency the
14 Secretary determines appropriate—

15 (I) assess and identify Clearing-
16 house best practices and recommenda-
17 tions for which there are no resources
18 available through Federal Government
19 programs for implementation;

20 (II) provide feedback on the im-
21 plementation of such best practices
22 and recommendations; and

23 (III) propose additional best
24 practices and recommendations for in-
25 clusion in the Clearinghouse; and

1 (iii) not less frequently than annually,
2 examine and update the Clearinghouse in
3 accordance with—

4 (I) the information collected
5 under clause (i); and

6 (II) the best practices and rec-
7 ommendations proposed under clause
8 (ii)(III).

9 (B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
10 than 3 years after the date of enactment of this
11 Act, and every 3 years thereafter during the pe-
12 riod in which the Clearinghouse is in existence,
13 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
14 on the updates under subparagraph (A)(iii)
15 made to the Clearinghouse during the preceding
16 3-year period, which shall include a description
17 of any changes made pursuant thereto to the
18 Clearinghouse.

19 (b) NOTIFICATION OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
21 to the individuals, Federal agencies, and committees
22 specified in paragraph (2) written notification of the
23 establishment of the Clearinghouse, including up-
24 dates pertaining to grant programs identified under
25 subsection (a)(2)(C).

1 (2) INDIVIDUALS, FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND
2 COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The individuals, Federal
3 entities, and committees specified in this paragraph
4 are the following:

5 (A) Every State homeland security advisor.

6 (B) Every State department of homeland
7 security.

8 (C) Other Federal agencies with grant pro-
9 grams or initiatives that aid in the safety and
10 security of nonprofit organizations, including
11 faith-based organizations, and houses of wor-
12 ship, as determined appropriate by the Sec-
13 retary.

14 (D) Every Cyber Security Advisor.

15 (E) Every Protective Security Advisor.

16 (F) Every Federal Bureau of Investigation
17 Joint Terrorism Task Force.

18 (G) Every Homeland Security Fusion Cen-
19 ter.

20 (H) Every State or territorial Governor or
21 other chief executive.

22 (I) The Committee on Homeland Security
23 and Governmental Affairs and the Committee
24 on the Judiciary of the Senate.

1 (J) The Committee on Homeland Security
2 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the
3 House of Representatives.

4 (c) FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES OVER-
5 VIEW.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable,
7 the Secretary, when carrying out subsection
8 (a)(2)(C), shall include a grants program overview
9 on the website of the Clearinghouse that shall—

10 (A) be a location for all information re-
11 garding Federal grant programs that are open
12 to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based
13 organizations, and houses of worship for the
14 purposes of safety and security;

15 (B) directly link to each grant application
16 and any applicable user guides;

17 (C) identify all safety and security home-
18 land security assistance programs managed by
19 the Department that may be used to implement
20 best practices and recommendations of the
21 Clearinghouse;

22 (D) concurrent with the application period
23 for any grant identified under subsection
24 (a)(2)(C), provide information related to the re-
25 quired elements of grant applications to aid

1 nonprofit organizations, including faith-based
2 organizations, and houses of worship in meeting
3 the eligibility criteria for Federal grants; and

4 (E) provide answers to frequently asked
5 questions regarding the implementation of best
6 practices and recommendations of the Clearing-
7 house and best practices for applying for a
8 grant identified under subsection (a)(2)(C).

9 (2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO
10 FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—Each Federal
11 agency notified under subsection (b) shall provide to
12 the Secretary or other appropriate point of contact
13 for the Clearinghouse for inclusion in the Clearing-
14 house necessary information regarding any Federal
15 grant programs or resources of the Federal agency
16 that are available for nonprofit organizations, includ-
17 ing faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

18 (3) STATE GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any State notified
20 under subsection (b) may provide to the Sec-
21 retary or other appropriate point of contact for
22 the Clearinghouse for inclusion in the Clearing-
23 house necessary information regarding any
24 grant programs or resources of the State avail-
25 able for nonprofit organizations, including faith-

1 based organizations, and houses of worship for
2 the purposes of safety and security.

3 (B) IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES.—

4 The Clearinghouse shall, to the extent prac-
5 ticable, identify for each State the following:

6 (i) Each State agency responsible for
7 safety and security of nonprofit organiza-
8 tions, including faith-based organizations,
9 and houses of worship in the State, or any
10 State that does not have such an agency
11 designated.

12 (ii) Any grant program that may be
13 used for the purposes of implementing best
14 practices and recommendations of the
15 Clearinghouse.

16 (iii) Any resources or programs, in-
17 cluding community prevention or interven-
18 tion efforts, that may be used to assist in
19 targeted violence and terrorism prevention.

20 (d) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall, on the
21 website of the Clearinghouse, include a separate section
22 for other resources that shall provide a centralized list of
23 all available points of contact from which a nonprofit orga-
24 nization, including a faith-based organization, or a house
25 of worship may seek assistance in grant applications and

1 in carrying out the best practices and recommendations
2 of the Clearinghouse, including the following:

3 (1) A list of contact information to reach De-
4 partment personnel to assist with grant-related ques-
5 tions.

6 (2) The applicable Agency contact information
7 to connect houses of worship with Protective Secu-
8 rity Advisors.

9 (3) Contact information for all Department Fu-
10 sion Centers, listed by State.

11 (4) Information on the “If you See Something
12 Say Something Campaign” of the Department.

13 (5) Any other appropriate contacts.

14 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
15 tion may be construed to create, satisfy, or waive any re-
16 quirement under Federal civil rights laws, including—

17 (1) title II of the Americans With Disabilities
18 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.); or

19 (2) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
20 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

21 (f) SUNSET.—This Act shall cease to be effective on
22 the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of
23 this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.**

2 The Comptroller General of the United States shall
3 submit to Congress a report on the state of Federal grants
4 devoted to safety and security for nonprofit organizations,
5 including faith-based organizations, and houses of wor-
6 ship, and an evaluation of the relevant programs and re-
7 sources devoted to the safety and security of nonprofit or-
8 ganizations, including faith-based organizations, and
9 houses of worship as of the date of the report.