To direct the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice to carry out a grant program to provide assistance to police departments with fewer than 200 law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Gottheimer introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ____________________________

A BILL

To direct the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice to carry out a grant program to provide assistance to police departments with fewer than 200 law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Invest to Protect Act of 2022”.

(Original Signature of Member)
SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—There is established a grant program—

(1) to provide training, body cameras, and access to mental health resources to local law enforcement officers; and

(2) to improve recruitment and retention of local law enforcement officers.

(b) Authority.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice shall make a grant to an eligible local government.

(c) Eligible Activities.—Amounts from a grant made under this section may be used only for—

(1) de-escalation training for law enforcement officers;

(2) training for law enforcement officers in handling situations of domestic violence;

(3) law enforcement officer safety training;

(4) the offsetting of overtime costs associated with scheduling issues when a law enforcement officer is participating in such training.

(5) the purchasing, storage, operation, and securing of body cameras, in accordance with guidelines established by the eligible local government or
by the Attorney General under subsection (d) of this
section, until the eligible local government estab-
lishes such guidelines;

(6) a signing bonus for a law enforcement offi-
cer in an amount determined by the eligible local
government;

(7) a retention bonus for a law enforcement offi-
cer in an amount determined by the eligible local
government;

(8) a stipend to be used for graduate education
in the area of mental health, public health, or social
work in an amount not greater than the lesser of—

(A) $10,000; or

(B) the amount the law enforcement offi-
cer has paid towards such education; or

(9) providing access for law enforcement offi-
cers to evidence-based mental health services, treat-
mants, and therapies.

(d) BODY CAMERA GUIDELINES.—Not later than 60
days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney
General shall establish guidelines to be used by an eligible
local government until such eligible local government es-
tablishes guidelines regarding purchasing, storage, opera-
tion, and securing of body cameras based on existing in-
dustry best-practices.
(e) DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION BONUSES.—An eligible local government shall disclose to the Attorney General and make publicly available on a website of the eligible local government the amount of any officer recruitment and retention bonus given under subsection (b)(3) of this section.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) DE-ESCALATION TRAINING.—The term “de-escalation training” means a process or tactic used to prevent, reduce, or manage behaviors associated with conflict (including verbal or physical agitation, aggression, violence, or similar behaviors) during an interaction between two or more individuals.

(2) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “eligible local government” means—

(A) a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level that employs fewer than 200 law enforcement officers; or

(B) a tribal government that employs fewer than 200 law enforcement officers.
(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given that term in section 2503 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10533).