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| **Break the Cycle of Violence Act**  **Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)** |

Across the United States, communities are experiencing a historic increase in gun violence. And this violence is particularly acute in under-resourced Black and Brown neighborhoods. From 2012 to 2017, African-American children and teens were 14 times as likely to be shot to death as their white peers. Black men make up just 6 percent of population, but account for over 50 percent of gun homicide victims. Shootings, homicides, and group violence are a significant threat for too many Americans.

This violence imposes enormous human, social, and economic costs. In fact, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Violence Prevention presented research to Congress that found that “youth living in inner cities show a higher prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder than soldiers” in the U.S. military during wartime. And the stunning economic cost of gun violence is approximately $280 billion per year.

For those reasons, Senator Booker is leading on the Break the Cycle of Violence Act. This legislation would:

* Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award $5 billion in grants over eight years to community-based, nonprofit organizations and eligible units of local government to create and/or support:
  + Community outreach programs;
  + Hospital-based violence intervention programs;
  + Group violence interventions strategies; and
  + Violence interruption and crisis management initiatives.
* Create an Office of Community Violence Intervention at the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the Act.
* Establish a Community Violence Intervention Advisory Committee to provide advice and assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Community Violence Intervention to carry out the Act.
* Create a National Community Violence Response Center to provide technical assistance to grantees in the implementation of coordinated community violence intervention and prevention programs funded through the grant program.
* Direct the Secretary of the Department of Labor to create a $1.5 billion grant program for eligible organizations and units of local government to provide job training, education, apprenticeship, skilled trades training, or other paid or unpaid work experiences for opportunity youth in communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence.

Reducing community violence should no longer be a problem for law enforcement to deal with once it occurs. We must invest in community-based violence intervention and prevention initiatives that stop this violence from ever occurring in the first place.

If your boss would like to cosponsor the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, please contact Danny Smith at [Daniel\_Smith@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Daniel_Smith@judiciary-dem.senate.gov).