

Stop Enabling Repeat Violence and Endangering (SERVE) Our Communities Act

Introduced by Reps. Katko and Stefanik

Endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Association of Police Organizations and National District Attorneys Association

In the face of calls to “Defund the Police” or enact dangerous reforms that put more violent criminals on the street, it is more important than ever that federal lawmakers promote policies that invest in our law enforcement and strengthen public safety. Rising homicide rates across the country demonstrate the need for strong federal action to combat crime and ensure our justice system does not act as a revolving door for violent offenders.

The SERVE Our Communities Act provides a proactive incentive for states and localities to adopt policies that invest in law enforcement and keep America safe. Specifically, this legislation would authorize \$10 million in annual grant funding from FY 2023-2028 for the administration of anti-recidivism grants by the Department of Justice. In order for a state or locality to be eligible for funding, they must have:

- A law on the books that allows a State court or magistrate to consider the danger an individual poses to the community when determining bail or pretrial release conditions. The absence of such a standard has contributed to avoidable tragedies in New York State, and the SERVE Our Communities Act would make funding available to states that have enacted these policies in the previous calendar year.
- Taken steps in the previous calendar year to hire and retain law enforcement or prosecutorial staff.
- Administered a public awareness campaign in the previous calendar year to combat anti-police sentiment and improve community-police relations.

By providing anti-recidivism funding to states and localities that take these steps, the SERVE Our Communities Act recognizes that while it is important to improve outcomes for our justice system, these efforts should not come at the expense of public safety or our police.

To cosponsor or learn more about the SERVE Our Communities Act, please contact Tristan Southard (Tristan.Southard@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Katko’s office.