

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1978

To establish a grant program to empower relatives, friends, and co-workers of domestic violence victims to create safety plans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to empower relatives, friends, and co-workers of domestic violence victims to create safety plans.

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  
5 Safety Plan Grant Program Act of 2017” or as the “My  
6 Sister’s Keeper Act of 2017”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress finds as follows:

9 (1) Approximately 1 in 4 women will experience  
10 domestic violence during her lifetime and every year;

1       1 in 3 women who is a victim of homicide is mur-  
2       dered by her current or former partner.

3           (2) Every year, more than 3 million children  
4       witness domestic violence in their homes and chil-  
5       dren who live in homes where there is domestic vio-  
6       lence also suffer abuse or neglect at high rates.

7           (3) Children are more likely to intervene when  
8       they witness severe violence against a parent, which  
9       places them at great risk for injury or even death.

10          (4) Girls who witness domestic violence are  
11       more vulnerable to abuse as teens and adults and  
12       boys who witness domestic violence are more likely  
13       to become adult abusers of their partners, their chil-  
14       dren, or both, thus continuing the cycle of violence  
15       in the next generation.

16          (5) Most domestic violence incidents are never  
17       reported.

18          (6) Family members, close friends, co-workers,  
19       and other persons close to a victim of domestic vio-  
20       lence frequently observe things that lead them to  
21       suspect that their loved one or colleague is being  
22       abused but do not feel they possess the knowledge  
23       and skills needed to provide constructive assistance  
24       that can make a real difference in the life of the vic-  
25       tim.

