

AN ACT TO AMEND TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED,  
TITLE 4; TITLE 38; TITLE 39 AND TITLE 40, RELATIVE TO  
THE TENNESSEE VIOLENCE INTERVENTION  
PROGRAM.

By Amber Bowes

## PURPOSE OF THE BILL

- HBI845/SBI649
- The stated purpose of the program is to invest in effective, evidence-based violence reduction initiatives focused on the highest-risk individuals in communities disproportionately impacted by community violence.
- The bill establishes the Tennessee Violence Intervention Program within the department of finance and administration's office of criminal justice programs.

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- This bill requires the director of the office of criminal justice programs to establish, advertise, and administer grants throughout the program, conduct program evaluations to determine the effectiveness of the violence intervention programs, submit and post reports to provide transparency regarding the effectiveness of the programs, and hold public forums to gather community input regarding the programs.
- The bill describes how to apply for grants, how they will be judged, and how the money will be spent.
- The funds will go to cities, not-for-profit health agencies, law enforcement agencies, and non-profit organizations that serve communities with high rates of violent crime.

# STRENGTHS

- The bill prioritizes evidence-based violence reduction initiatives. This makes sure that resources are distributed to programs who have proven success.
- The bill targets communities with high rates of violent crimes, which allows for it to address the root causes of violence in areas most in need.
- The bill allows for flexibility in funding distribution. This allows for grants to align with the needs of applicants, rather than being a specific amount.

## LIMITATIONS

- The bill relies on the Federal Victims of Crime Act grants and other sources of funding that may be subject to change, therefore impacting the sustainability of the program.
- The bill does allow for flexible funding distribution, but it does not provide clear guidance on how these funds should be distributed among different initiatives, potentially resulting in inequitable distribution.
- The bill does not specify the criteria for evaluating effectiveness, which could lead to personalized assessments of program success.

## WHAT WE CAN DO

- **Chuck Fleischmann** – Representative for Chattanooga in Washington DC
  - (202) 225-3271 Washington DC Office
  - (423) 756-2342 Chattanooga Office
  - 900 Georgia Avenue Suite 126 Chattanooga, TN 37402
- **Yusuf Hakeem** – State Representative for Chattanooga in Nashville
  - (615) 741-2702
  - 425 Rep. John Lewis Way N. Suite 524 Cordell Hull Bldg. Nashville, TN 37243

# RESOURCES

Tennessee General Assembly legislation. (n.d.).

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=SBI649>

*Address lookup.* Congressman Chuck Fleischmann. (n.d.).

[https://fleischmann.house.gov/address\\_authentication?form=%2Fcontact%2Femail](https://fleischmann.house.gov/address_authentication?form=%2Fcontact%2Femail)