To direct the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to carry out a pilot program to establish community outpost houses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. EMMER 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 to carry out a pilot program to establish community outpost houses, and for other purposes.

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

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community Outpost Outreach and Engagement Act”.

6 SEC. 2. COP HOUSE PILOT PROGRAM.

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Office of Community Oriented
Policing Services to carry out a pilot program to make grants to eligible applicants to establish and operate community outpost houses (referred to in this section as “COP houses”).

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot program is to provide long-term stabilization in the relationship of law enforcement and the community by—

(1) building relationships, awareness, and trust with members of the community;

(2) uniting members of the community and law enforcement;

(3) improving the quality of life in the neighborhood; and

(4) reducing crime.

(c) USES OF FUNDS.—A COP house funded under this section may provide services, including—

(1) connecting with residents and involvement in community outreach programs;

(2) providing government benefit program consultations;

(3) nursing services and coordination with medical services in the community;

(4) emergency medical services;

(5) space for use by community groups; and
(6) holding events with community partners, including public health services, educational classes or seminars, tutoring services for youth.

(d) OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS.—A recipient of a grant under this section shall certify to the Director that any officer stationed at the COP house—

(1) has demonstrated their communication and problem-solving skills;

(2) does not have a history of verified instances of excessive force; and

(3) has completed necessary training to understand the cultural sensitivities of the obligations of a position at the COP house.

(e) REPORT.—The Director shall submit to Congress on an annual basis information related to the operation of the pilot program under this section, including the impact that COP houses have had on the relationships between law enforcement officers and the community and any changes in the rates of crime in the communities in which COP houses have been established pursuant to this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible applicant” means a non-profit organization, or a law enforcement organiza-
tion applying jointly with at least one non-profit organ-
ization.

(2) The term “community outpost house” means a location in the jurisdiction served by a law enforcement agency that is operated by the law enforcement agency in a collaborative manner with nonprofit organizations and other service providers.