To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States for use to eliminate blight and assist in neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Ryan of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _________________

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States for use to eliminate blight and assist in neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

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

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Clean Up Our Neighborhoods Act of 2018”.

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August 27, 2018 (11:33 a.m.)

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SEC. 2. BLIGHT ELIMINATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION GRANTS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may make grants under this section, on a competitive basis, to States for use for eligible activities under subsection (c)(1) designed to eliminate blight and promote neighborhood revitalization.

(b) USE IN NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT AREAS.—Amounts from a grant under this section may be used only to carry out eligible activities under subsection (c)(1) within low-income communities, as such term is defined in subsection (g).

(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts from a grant under this section may be used only for the following activities:

(A) Demolition, clearance, and removal of blighted structures.

(B) Boarding of vacant properties and blighted structures.

(C) Removal of waste and site clearance.

(D) Stabilization activities in connection with providing vacant, open green space for the purpose of public access and redevelopment.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—A grantee State may use amounts from a
grant under this Act directly to carry out eligible activities under paragraph (1) or may provide such amounts to units of general local government within the State whose jurisdictions include low-income communities for use to carry out such eligible activities within such low-income communities.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall require each State that receives a grant under this section to contribute, toward carrying out the plan for the State under subsection (e)(2), an amount of matching funds from non-Federal sources that is equal to or greater than 15 percent of the amount of the grant.

(e) APPLICATION AND PLAN.—

(1) APPLICATION.—A grant under this section may only be provided to a State that submits to the Secretary an application for such a grant that contains a plan for use of grant funds in accordance with paragraph (2) and such other information, certifications, and assurances as the Secretary considers necessary to provide for selection of States in accordance with the process and criteria under subsection (f).

(2) PLAN.—A plan under this paragraph shall be a detailed 5-year plan for the use of grant amounts under this section and matching amounts
contributed pursuant to subsection (d) that includes—

(A) identification of the low-income communities in which eligible activities under subsection (c)(1) will be carried out using grant and matching amounts;

(B) a description of the eligible activities under subsection (c)(1) to be carried out using grant and matching amounts;

(C) a timetable for carrying out such eligible activities, which shall provide for the expenditure of grant and matching amounts within 5 years after receipt; and

(D) identification of the sources of matching amounts to be provided in accordance with subsection (d) and assurances of the availability of such matching amounts.

(f) SELECTION; CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select applications to receive grants under this section pursuant to a competition and based on criteria as established by the Secretary for such selection.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-income community” has the meaning given such
term in section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code
of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 45D) and includes any census
tract or other area that is treated as a low-income
community for purposes of such section.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
the several States, the District of Columbia, the
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Is-
lands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and
any other territory or possession of the United
States.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue any
regulations necessary to carry out this section.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
necessary for grants under this section for each of fiscal
years 2020 through 2025.