



# BOB CASEY

FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

## **The HIRRE Prosecutors Act of 2024**

*U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), U.S. Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-19), Jim Baird (R-IN-04), Joe Neguse (D-CO-02), and Don Bacon (R-NE-02)*

Our criminal justice system relies on the critical work of prosecutors to investigate and prosecute crimes to keep our communities safe. Over the years, there has been a growing hiring crisis for prosecutors across the Nation. Since the pandemic, district attorneys' offices have experienced increased staff turnover and, in turn, have struggled to retain and build the staff necessary to carry out their responsibilities to maintain public safety.

In recent years, some district attorneys' offices across the Nation have experienced vacancies as high as [33 percent](#). In Pennsylvania, while most prosecutors reported high job satisfaction in a recent [survey](#) conducted by the National District Attorneys Association, nearly 70% of those surveyed reported that they had considered leaving their job within the past year, with 73% reporting "better pay" as one of their primary motivating factors. Unfortunately, local and state prosecutors receive little to no federal assistance to improve staffing and retention.

In response to this issue, the Helping Improve Recruitment and Retention Efforts for (HIRRE) Prosecutors Act would, among other things:

- Establish a program through the Department of Justice to award competitive grants to local and state entities to assist in hiring, retaining, and training prosecutors and staff
- Allow preferential consideration for applications from rural jurisdictions
- Be authorized at \$10 million per year for five years

The grant program established by the HIRRE Prosecutors Act would be modeled, in part, after the Department of Justice's COPS Hiring Program, a successful initiative to hire or rehire local law enforcement. This legislation would help district attorney offices across the Nation ensure they have enough prosecutors on staff and incentivize them to continue their public service.

*Endorsements:* National District Attorneys Association; Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association