

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9253

To provide for a coordinated national research program to examine the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of violence and unintended injury and death relating to gun ownership, use, and trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2024

Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Mr. FROST, Mr. BEYER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ROSS, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. HORSFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a coordinated national research program to examine the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of violence and unintended injury and death relating to gun ownership, use, and trafficking, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Gun Violence
3 Research Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) In the last 50 years, more individuals in the
7 United States have died from gunshots than in all
8 wars in which the United States was a combatant,
9 combined.

10 (2) The rate of gun violence deaths in the
11 United States is more than 11 times that of other
12 high-income nations.

13 (3) Guns accounted for 79 percent of homicides
14 and 55 percent of suicides in 2022, totaling over
15 48,000 deaths in the United States.

16 (4) Gun violence disproportionately affects com-
17 munities of color. In 2021, Black Americans were
18 13.7 times as likely as White Americans to be killed
19 by gun violence while Hispanic and Latino Ameri-
20 cans were 2.4 times as likely to be killed.

21 (5) Provisions in appropriations Acts dating
22 back to 1996 have had a chilling effect on Federal
23 funding for research on gun violence across the Fed-
24 eral Government and, as a result, research on gun
25 violence is significantly underfunded relative to other
26 leading causes of death.

1 (6) Research examining the nature, causes, con-
2 sequences, and prevention of gun-related violence,
3 suicide, and unintentional injury and death does not
4 constitute advocacy in support of, or opposition to,
5 gun control policies or regulations.

6 (7) More research and high-quality data relat-
7 ing to gun violence are needed to inform the develop-
8 ment of effective strategies to reduce the incidence
9 of gun-related injury and death.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
13 the Director of the Office of Science and Technology
14 Policy.

15 (2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The
16 term “institution of higher education” has the
17 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
18 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

19 (3) **PROGRAM.**—The term “Program” means
20 the National Gun Violence Research Program estab-
21 lished under section 5.

22 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH AND DATA RESTRICTIONS REPEAL.**

23 (a) **GUN TRACE DATA.**—

24 (1) The matter under the heading “Bureau of
25 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—Sala-

1 ries and Expenses” in title II of division B of the
2 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropria-
3 tions Act, 2012 (18 U.S.C. 923 note; Public Law
4 112–55; 125 Stat. 609–610) is amended by striking
5 the 6th proviso.

6 (2) The 6th proviso under the heading “Bureau
7 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—Sala-
8 ries and Expenses” in title II of division B of the
9 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (18 U.S.C.
10 923 note; Public Law 111–117; 123 Stat. 3128–
11 3129) is amended by striking “beginning in fiscal
12 year 2010 and thereafter” and inserting “in fiscal
13 year 2010”.

14 (3) The 6th proviso under the heading “Bureau
15 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—Sala-
16 ries and Expenses” in title II of division B of the
17 Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (18 U.S.C. 923
18 note; Public Law 111–8; 123 Stat. 574–576) is
19 amended by striking “beginning in fiscal year 2009
20 and thereafter” and inserting “in fiscal year 2009”.

21 (4) The 6th proviso under the heading “Bureau
22 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—Sala-
23 ries and Expenses” in title II of division B of the
24 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (18 U.S.C.
25 923 note; Public Law 110–161; 121 Stat. 1903–

1 1904) is amended by striking “beginning in fiscal
2 year 2008 and thereafter” and inserting “in fiscal
3 year 2008”.

4 (5) The 6th proviso under the heading “Bureau
5 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—Sala-
6 ries and Expenses” in title I of the Science, State,
7 Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appro-
8 priations Act, 2006 (18 U.S.C. 923 note; Public
9 Law 109–108; 119 Stat. 2295–2296) is amended by
10 striking “with respect to any fiscal year”.

11 (6) The 6th proviso under the heading in title
12 I of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations
13 Act, 2005 (18 U.S.C. 923 note; Public Law 108–
14 447; 118 Stat. 2859–2860) is amended by striking
15 “with respect to any fiscal year”.

16 (b) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-
17 ICES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds
18 made available to the Department of Health and Human
19 Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and
20 Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, may be
21 used to conduct or support research with respect to gun
22 violence.

23 **SEC. 5. RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President, acting
25 through the Director, shall develop and implement a pro-

1 gram to improve public health and safety through research
2 on gun violence (to be known as the “National Gun Vio-
3 lence Research Program”), through activities carried out
4 in collaboration with covered agencies that—

5 (1) support gun violence research;

6 (2) accelerate the translation of gun violence re-
7 search into effective policy interventions to reduce
8 the incidence of injury and death related to guns;

9 (3) expand the number of researchers and stu-
10 dents in the field of gun violence research; and

11 (4) improve interagency planning and coordina-
12 tion of Federal Government activities relating to gun
13 violence research.

14 (b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—A covered agency, in car-
15 rying out activities described in subsection (a), shall—

16 (1) award grants to individual investigators and
17 interdisciplinary teams of investigators for projects
18 related to gun violence research;

19 (2) support projects funded under joint sollicita-
20 tions by a collaboration of no fewer than two covered
21 agencies;

22 (3) establish interdisciplinary research centers
23 that are organized to investigate basic research
24 questions and inform policy decisions relating to gun
25 violence;

1 (4) provide for the education and training of
2 undergraduate students, graduate students, and
3 postdoctoral scholars in gun violence research; and

4 (5) promote the development of voluntary con-
5 sensus gun safety technical standards.

6 (c) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President,
9 acting through the National Science and Technology
10 Council, shall establish or maintain an interagency
11 working group on gun violence research.

12 (2) COMPOSITION.—The working group estab-
13 lished or maintained under paragraph (1) shall be
14 chaired by the Director and include representatives
15 from—

16 (A) the National Science Foundation;

17 (B) the National Institute of Standards
18 and Technology;

19 (C) the National Institutes of Health;

20 (D) the Centers for Disease Control and
21 Prevention;

22 (E) the National Institute of Justice; and

23 (F) any other Federal agency (including
24 an agency, department, or service thereof) that
25 the Director considers appropriate.

1 (3) DUTIES.—The Working Group shall—

2 (A) oversee the planning, management,
3 and coordination of the Program;

4 (B) provide for coordination among cov-
5 ered agencies of Federal gun violence research
6 and other activities undertaken pursuant to the
7 Program;

8 (C) establish and periodically update goals
9 and priorities for the Program; and

10 (D) develop, not later than 12 months
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, and up-
12 date every 5 years, a strategic plan to guide the
13 activities of the Program to meet the goals and
14 priorities established under subparagraph (C).

15 (d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 President, acting through the Director of the Office
19 of Science and Technology Policy, shall establish or
20 maintain an advisory committee on gun violence re-
21 search.

22 (2) COMPOSITION.—The advisory committee es-
23 tablished or maintained under paragraph (1) shall
24 be composed of not less than 12 members, including
25 representatives of research institutions, institutions

1 of higher education, health care and social services
2 providers, local government agencies, law enforce-
3 ment, community-based organizations, and relevant
4 nonprofit organizations who are qualified to provide
5 advice on the Program.

6 (3) DUTIES.—The advisory committee estab-
7 lished or maintained under paragraph (1) shall as-
8 sess—

9 (A) the management, coordination, imple-
10 mentation, and activities of the Program;

11 (B) the balance of activities and funding
12 across the Program;

13 (C) whether the Program priorities and
14 goals developed by the working group estab-
15 lished under subsection (c)(3) are helping to
16 improve public health and safety; and

17 (D) the need to revise the Program.

18 (e) COVERED AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section,
19 the term “covered agency” means—

20 (1) the National Science Foundation;

21 (2) the National Institute for Standards and
22 Technology;

23 (3) the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
24 tion;

25 (4) the National Institutes of Health;

1 (5) the National Institute of Justice; and

2 (6) such other Federal agency as determined
3 appropriate by the Director of the Office of Science
4 and Technology Policy.

5 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry
7 out this section \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
8 through 2030.

9 **SEC. 6. AGENCY ACTIVITIES.**

10 (a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

11 (1) RESEARCH.—The Director of the National
12 Science Foundation shall award grants, on a com-
13 petitive basis, to institutions of higher education or
14 nonprofit organizations (or consortia of such institu-
15 tions)—

16 (A) to support multidisciplinary research
17 to better understand the nature, causes, and
18 consequences of gun violence, including violence,
19 suicide, unintended injury, and death involving
20 guns;

21 (B) to examine the effects of gun policy
22 interventions on—

23 (i) rates of suicide, homicide, and un-
24 intended injury and death;

1 (ii) individuals' ability to use guns for
2 self-defense, hunting, and recreation; and

3 (iii) the gun industry; and

4 (C) to educate and train researchers in the
5 field of violence, including gun violence, re-
6 search.

7 (2) NATIONAL CENTER FOR VIOLENCE RE-
8 SEARCH.—The Director of the National Science
9 Foundation shall award grants on a competitive
10 basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit
11 organizations (or consortia of such institutions) to
12 establish one or more centers to conduct multidisci-
13 plinary research and education activities in support
14 of the goals and priorities of the Program (to be
15 known as “National Center for Violence Research”).

16 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this subsection \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
19 2025 through 2030.

20 (b) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
21 TECHNOLOGY.—

22 (1) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS.—The
23 Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director
24 of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
25 nology, shall establish a program to promote the de-

1 velopment of voluntary consensus gun safety tech-
2 nical standards. Such effort shall include—

3 (A) outreach, coordination, and technical
4 support to relevant industry and nonindustry
5 stakeholders and standards development organi-
6 zations to assist such entities in the develop-
7 ment of voluntary consensus gun safety tech-
8 nical standards;

9 (B) the conduct of research to support ef-
10 forts to develop and improve such standards
11 and conformity assessment; and

12 (C) the development of such standard ref-
13 erence material as the Director determines is
14 necessary to further the development of such
15 standards.

16 (2) PROHIBITION ON REGULATION.—Nothing in
17 this Act shall be construed as conferring upon the
18 Secretary of Commerce any authority to establish or
19 enforce mandatory gun safety standards.

20 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
21 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this subsection \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2025 through 2030.

24 (c) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-
25 ICES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
2 Human Services, acting through the Director of the
3 National Institutes of Health, the Director of the
4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and
5 other scientific agencies within the Department of
6 Health and Human Services, shall award grants on
7 a competitive basis to conduct or support research
8 into the nature, causes, consequences, and preven-
9 tion of gun violence.

10 (2) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to
11 be appropriated to the Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services to carry out this subsection
13 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
14 2030.

15 (d) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

16 (1) RESEARCH.—The Attorney General, acting
17 through the Director of the National Institute of
18 Justice, shall conduct or sponsor research into the
19 nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of gun
20 violence.

21 (2) TRACE DATA.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
23 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
24 the Attorney General, in collaboration with the
25 Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall

1 develop consensus protocols for granting re-
2 searchers access to gun trace data that abide by
3 standard principles for ethical research.

4 (B) DATA SHARING.—Not later than 1
5 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
6 Attorney General, acting through the Director
7 of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms,
8 and Explosives, shall commence sharing with
9 researchers according to the protocols developed
10 under subparagraph (A), the contents of the
11 Firearms Trace System database and informa-
12 tion required to be kept by licensees pursuant
13 to section 923(g) of title 18, United States
14 Code, or required to be reported pursuant to
15 paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g).

16 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this subsection \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years
19 2025 through 2030.

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