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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Gun Violence  
5 Research Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

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

7 (2) The rate of gun violence deaths in the  
8 United States is more than double that of other  
9 high-income nations.

10 (3) Guns accounted for 74 percent of homicides  
11 and 51 percent of suicides in 2016, totaling over  
12 37,000 deaths in the United States.

13 (4) Gun violence disproportionately affects ra-  
14 cial minorities, with African Americans comprising  
15 nearly 60 percent of homicide victims and 22 per-  
16 cent of unintentional injury deaths in 2016.

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

23 (6) Research examining the nature, causes, con-  
24 sequences, and prevention of gun-related violence,  
25 suicide, and unintentional injury and death does not

1       constitute advocacy in support of, or opposition to,  
2       gun control policies or regulations.

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

7       **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8       In this Act:

9               (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
10       the Director of the Office of Science and Technology  
11       Policy.

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

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

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

20       (a) **GUN TRACE DATA.**—

21              (1) The matter under the heading “Bureau of  
22       Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—Sala-  
23       ries and Expenses” in title I of division B of the  
24       Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropria-  
25       tions Act, 2012 (18 U.S.C. 923 note; Public Law

1 112–55; 125 Stat. 609–610) is amended by striking  
2 the 6th proviso.

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

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

18 (4) The 6th proviso under the heading “Bureau  
19 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—Sala-  
20 ries and Expenses” in title II of division B of the  
21 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (18 U.S.C.  
22 923 note; Public Law 110–161; 121 Stat. 1903–  
23 1904) is amended by striking “beginning in fiscal  
24 year 2008 and thereafter” and inserting “in fiscal  
25 year 2008”.

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 5. RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

20       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President, acting  
21 through the Director, shall develop and implement a pro-  
22 gram to improve public health and safety through research  
23 on gun violence (to be known as the “National Gun Vio-  
24 lence Research Program”), through activities carried out  
25 in collaboration with covered agencies that—

1 (1) support gun violence research;

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

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

7 (4) improve interagency planning and coordina-  
8 tion of Federal Government activities relating to gun  
9 violence research.

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

12 (1) award grants to individual investigators and  
13 interdisciplinary teams of investigators for projects  
14 related to gun violence research;

15 (2) support projects funded under joint solicita-  
16 tions by a collaboration of no fewer than two covered  
17 agencies;

18 (3) establish interdisciplinary research centers  
19 that are organized to investigate basic research  
20 questions and inform policy decisions relating to gun  
21 violence;

22 (4) provide for the education and training of  
23 undergraduate students, graduate students, and  
24 postdoctoral scholars in gun violence research; and

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

3           (c) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

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

9           (2) COMPOSITION.—The working group estab-  
10          lished under this subsection shall be chaired by the  
11          Director and include representatives from—

12                   (A) the National Science Foundation;

13                   (B) the National Institute of Standards  
14                   and Technology;

15                   (C) the National Institutes of Health;

16                   (D) the Centers for Disease Control and  
17                   Prevention;

18                   (E) the National Institute of Justice; and

19                   (F) any other Federal agency (including  
20                   an agency, department, or service thereof) that  
21                   the Director considers appropriate.

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

23                   (A) oversee the planning, management,  
24                   and coordination of the Program;

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

5           (C) establish and periodically update goals  
6           and priorities for the Program;

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

12         (d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
14           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
15           President, acting through the Director of the Office  
16           of Science and Technology Policy, shall establish an  
17           advisory committee on gun violence research.

18           (2) COMPOSITION.—The advisory committee es-  
19           tablished under paragraph (1) shall be composed of  
20           not less than 12 members, including representatives  
21           of research institutions, institutions of higher edu-  
22           cation, industry, law enforcement, and relevant non-  
23           profit organizations who are qualified to provide ad-  
24           vice on the Program.

1           (3) DUTIES.—The advisory committee estab-  
2           lished under subsection (a) shall assess—

3                   (A) the management, coordination, imple-  
4                   mentation, and activities of the Program;

5                   (B) the balance of activities and funding  
6                   across the Program;

7                   (C) whether the Program priorities and  
8                   goals developed by the working group estab-  
9                   lished under subsection (c)(3) are helping to  
10                  improve public health and safety; and

11                  (D) the need to revise the Program.

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

14                  (1) the National Science Foundation;

15                  (2) the National Institute for Standards and  
16          Technology;

17                  (3) the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
18          tion;

19                  (4) the National Institutes of Health;

20                  (5) the National Institute of Justice; and

21                  (6) such other Federal agency as determined  
22          appropriate by the Director of the Office of Science  
23          and Technology Policy.

24          (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
25          are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry

1 out this section \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 2019  
2 through 2024.

3 **SEC. 6. AGENCY ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

5 (1) RESEARCH.—The Director of the National  
6 Science Foundation shall award grants, on a com-  
7 petitive basis, to institutions of higher education or  
8 nonprofit organizations (or consortia of such institu-  
9 tions or organizations)—

10 (A) to support multidisciplinary research  
11 to better understand the nature, causes, and  
12 consequences of violence, including violence, sui-  
13 cide, unintended injury, and death involving  
14 guns;

15 (B) to examine the effects of gun policy  
16 interventions on—

17 (i) rates of suicide, homicide, and un-  
18 intended injury and death;

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

21 (iii) the gun industry; and

22 (C) to educate and train researchers in the  
23 field of violence, including gun violence, re-  
24 search.

1           (2) NATIONAL CENTER FOR VIOLENCE RE-  
2           SEARCH.—The Director of the National Science  
3           Foundation shall award grants on a competitive  
4           basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit  
5           organizations (or consortia of such institutions or or-  
6           ganizations) to establish one or more centers to con-  
7           duct multidisciplinary research and education activi-  
8           ties in support of the goals and priorities of the Pro-  
9           gram (to be known as “National Center for Violence  
10          Research”).

11          (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
12          There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
13          this subsection \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
14          2019 through 2024.

15          (b) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND  
16          TECHNOLOGY.—

17               (1) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS.—The  
18               Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director  
19               of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-  
20               nology, shall establish a program to promote the de-  
21               velopment of voluntary consensus gun safety tech-  
22               nical standards. Such effort shall include—

23                       (A) outreach, coordination, and technical  
24                       support to relevant industry and nonindustry  
25                       stakeholders and standards development organi-

1 zations to assist such entities in the develop-  
2 ment of voluntary consensus gun safety tech-  
3 nical standards;

4 (B) the conduct of research to support ef-  
5 forts to develop and improve such standards  
6 and conformity assessment; and

7 (C) the development of such standard ref-  
8 erence material as the Director determines is  
9 necessary to further the development of such  
10 standards.

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

15 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
16 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
17 this subsection \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
18 2019 through 2024.

19 (c) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-  
20 ICES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
22 Human Services, acting through the Director of the  
23 National Institutes of Health, the Director of the  
24 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and  
25 other scientific agencies within the Department of

1 Health and Human Services, shall award grants on  
2 a competitive basis to conduct or support research  
3 into the nature, causes, consequences, and preven-  
4 tion of gun violence.

5 (2) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to  
6 be appropriated to the Secretary of Health and  
7 Human Services to carry out this subsection  
8 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through  
9 2024.

10 (d) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

11 (1) RESEARCH.—The Attorney General of the  
12 United States, acting through the National Institute  
13 of Justice, shall conduct or sponsor research into the  
14 nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of gun  
15 violence.

16 (2) COMPETITION.—The Attorney General of  
17 the United States, acting through the National In-  
18 stitute of Justice, shall sponsor an inducement prize  
19 competition under section 24 of the Stevenson-  
20 Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15  
21 U.S.C. 3719) to demonstrate through testing and  
22 evaluation the reliability of guns and gun accessories  
23 with integrated advanced gun safety technology  
24 (commonly referred to as smart guns, user-author-

1        ized handguns, childproof guns, and personalized  
2        guns).

3            (3) TRACE DATA.—

4            (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
5        days after the date of enactment of this Act,  
6        the Attorney General, in collaboration with the  
7        Secretary of the Department of Health and  
8        Human Services, shall develop consensus proto-  
9        cols for granting researchers access to gun  
10       trace data while protecting the confidentiality of  
11       gun owners and dealers.

12           (B) DATA SHARING.—Not later than 1  
13        year after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
14        Attorney General, acting through the Bureau of  
15        Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives,  
16        shall commence sharing with researchers ac-  
17        cording to the protocols developed under sub-  
18        paragraph (A), the contents of the Firearms  
19        Trace System database and information re-  
20        quired to be kept by licensees pursuant to sec-  
21        tion 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or  
22        required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs  
23        (3) and (7) of such section 923(g).

24           (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

25        There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out

- 1 this subsection \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years
- 2 2019 through 2024.