



August 2013

Summary: H.R. 2910

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION ACT OF 2013

Committee on Energy and Commerce

Minority Staff

In the wake of the Newtown massacre last fall and the recent shootings in Santa Monica, California, the country remains concerned about our national epidemic of gun violence – its causes, its impact, and the need to prevent such violence altogether.

Preventing or reducing gun violence requires a comprehensive approach. In addition to enhanced background checks, a ban on assault weapons, and limitations on the size of ammunition magazines or storage devices, we must take steps to prohibit Internet sales of certain guns, strengthen our mental health infrastructure, and support gun violence research – all to ensure that we keep our children, our families, and our communities safe.

H.R. 2910 provides a framework for moving forward in the areas of Internet gun sales, mental health, and gun violence research. In brief, the bill would prohibit the sale of certain “homemade” gun kits and parts used in the Santa Monica shootings, target research on serious mental illness, improve access to mental health services for all, and reinforce existing government authorities to carry out public health research on gun violence.

TITLE I: BANNING ACCESS TO DO-IT-YOURSELF ASSAULT WEAPONS

Sec. 101. Do-It-Yourself Assault Weapon Ban.

- Prohibits the sale (including Internet sales) of firearm receiver castings or blanks (that when completed function as firearm frames or receivers and are sometimes called “80% receivers” or “95% receivers”), assault weapon parts kits, and machinegun parts kits.

Sec. 102. Prohibition of Advertising Do-It-Yourself Assault Weapons.

- Prohibits the marketing and advertising of firearm receiver castings or blanks (that when completed function as firearm frames or receivers and are sometimes called “80% receivers” or “95% receivers”), assault weapon parts kits, and machinegun parts kits through the Internet and other types of electronic communications.

Sec. 103. Definitions.

- Defines terms related to do-it-yourself assault weapons for purposes of Title I.

Sec. 104. Construction.

- Clarifies that nothing in Title I limits the ability of a state to enact more restrictive gun-related laws or bans on certain gun parts of weapons kits.

TITLE II: STRENGTHENING THE NATION'S MENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A: Advancing Research on Serious Mental Illness

Sec. 201. National Institute of Mental Health Research Program on Serious Mental Illness.

- Expands the mission of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to specifically address research on serious mental illness (SMI), including diseases such as schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder, and severe depression.
- Requires NIMH to conduct or support research on SMI as part of its research portfolio.
- Requires the inclusion of research activities on SMI in the biennial report of the Director of the National Institutes of Health.

Subtitle B: Improving the Mental Health Workforce

Sec. 211. National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Funding for Behavioral and Mental Health Professionals.

- Increases funding for scholarships and loan repayments for mental health professionals through the National Health Service Corps.

Sec. 212. Reauthorization of the Health Research and Services Administration's (HRSA) Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Program.

- Reauthorizes HRSA's Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Program to train psychologists, social workers, and child and adolescent mental health providers.

Sec. 213. Mental Health Awareness Training for School and Emergency Services Personnel.

- Provides support (as part of a new initiative, Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE), established under Sec. 221) for training programs for school and emergency services personnel to identify and respond to signs of mental health and substance use disorders.

Sec. 214. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant Program for Development and Implementation of Curricula for Continuing Education on Serious Mental Illness.

- Establishes a new program to develop and implement continuing education training curricula targeted to health care professionals (including primary care providers, pediatricians, and emergency medical technicians) to identify, refer, and treat individuals with SMI.

Sec. 215. Clarification of HIPAA Training Requirements Regarding Disclosure of Protected Health Information Concerning Individuals with Mental Health Disorders.

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue guidance on the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to ensure that HIPAA training includes a clear explanation of the circumstances under which health care providers are permitted or required to disclose protected health information for individuals with a mental health disorder.

Subtitle C: Expanding Access to Mental Health Services

Sec. 221. Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE) Initiative.

- Establishes a new initiative, Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE), comprised of three components:
 - Support for school-based, comprehensive mental health programs;
 - Reauthorization of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (including the establishment of a Suicide Prevention Technical Assistance Center) that supports suicide prevention services and access to mental health and substance use disorder services for college-aged youth and young adults; and
 - Support for training programs for school and emergency services personnel to identify and respond to signs of mental health and substance use disorders (see Sec. 213).

Sec. 222. SAMSHA and HRSA Integration of Mental Health Services into Primary Care Settings.

- Provides support for programs designed to integrate mental health services into primary care settings, including programs that co-locate mental health services and coordinate care in settings such as community health centers.

Sec. 223. Children's Recovery from Trauma.

- Reauthorizes the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI) that addresses the mental, behavioral, and biological aspects of recovery from psychological trauma in children.
- Establishes the NCTSI Coordinating Center to collect and analyze data, coordinate training initiatives, and disseminate information related to the work produced through the NCTSI.

Sec. 224. Information on Geriatric Mental Health Disorders.

- Directs the HHS Secretary to disseminate information on evidence-based practices for the prevention and treatment of geriatric mental health disorders.

Sec. 225. GAO Study on Availability of Inpatient Beds.

- Directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on the availability of inpatient beds for the treatment of mental health disorders, including the impact of the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Disease exclusion on individuals with SMI and on states.

Sec. 226. Reporting Requirements for Block Grants Regarding Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.

- Revises the annual reporting requirements for the SAMHSA state block grant programs for community mental health services and the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders to both better account for the use of block grant dollars and better measure the quality and impact of the services provided.

Sec. 227. Mental Health Parity.

- Provides that the provisions of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 are to be construed to ensure full parity between both medical and surgical benefits and mental health and substance use disorder benefits, including full parity at all levels of medically appropriate treatment and with respect to applicable medical management techniques.

Subtitle D: Promoting Public Awareness of Mental Health Disorders and Reducing Stigma of Such Disorders.

Sec. 231. Promoting Public Awareness of Mental Health Disorders and Reducing Stigma of Such Disorders.

- Provides support for a national campaign to promote aware of mental health disorders and reduce the stigma and discrimination against individuals with a mental health disorder.

TITLE III: UNDERSTANDING THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE

Sec. 301. Reaffirming Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Research Authority.

- Reaffirms CDC's authority to conduct research (including data collection) on the causes and prevention of gun violence as well as the treatment of injuries related to such violence.

Sec. 302. National Violent Death Reporting System.

- Directs the HHS Secretary to improve the National Violent Death Reporting System, including through the voluntary participation of additional states in the System.

Sec. 303. Protecting Confidential Doctor-Patient Relationship.

- Ensures the protection of the confidential doctor-patient relationship as it relates to discussions about gun safety.