

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3926

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for better understanding of the epidemic of gun violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FARR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for better understanding of the epidemic of gun violence, 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 “Gun Violence Research
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAFFIRMING RESEARCH AUTHORITY OF THE CEN-**
2 **TERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVEN-**
3 **TION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 391 of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “research
7 relating to the causes, mechanisms, prevention, diag-
8 nosis, treatment of injuries, and rehabilitation from
9 injuries;” and inserting “research, including data
10 collection, relating to—

11 “(A) the causes, mechanisms, prevention,
12 diagnosis, and treatment of injuries, including
13 with respect to gun violence; and

14 “(B) rehabilitation from such injuries;”;
15 and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 section:

18 “(c) NO ADVOCACY OR PROMOTION OF GUN CON-
19 TROL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

20 “(1) authorize the Secretary to give assistance,
21 make grants, or enter into cooperative agreements or
22 contracts for the purpose of advocating or promoting
23 gun control; or

24 “(2) permit a recipient of any assistance, grant,
25 cooperative agreement, or contract under this section
26 to use such assistance, grant, agreement, or contract

1 for the purpose of advocating or promoting gun con-
2 trol.”.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
4 394A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b–
5 3) is amended by striking “authorized to be appropriated”
6 and all that follows through the end and inserting the fol-
7 lowing: “authorized to be appropriated such sums as may
8 be necessary for fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”.

9 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM.**

10 The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
11 through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control
12 and Prevention, shall improve, particularly through the in-
13 clusion of additional States, the National Violent Death
14 Reporting System, as authorized by title III of the Public
15 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.). Participation
16 in the system by the States shall be voluntary.

17 **SEC. 4. PROTECTING CONFIDENTIAL DOCTOR-PATIENT RE-**
18 **LATIONSHIP.**

19 Section 2717(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42
20 U.S.C. 300gg–17(c)) is amended by adding at the end the
21 following new paragraph:

22 “(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwith-
23 standing the previous provisions of this subsection,
24 none of the authorities provided to the Secretary
25 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care

1 Act, an amendment made by that Act, or this sub-
2 section shall be construed to prohibit a physician or
3 other health care provider from—

4 “(A) asking a patient about the ownership,
5 possession, use, or storage of a firearm or am-
6 munition in the home of such patient;

7 “(B) speaking to a patient about gun safe-
8 ty; or

9 “(C) reporting to the authorities a pa-
10 tient’s threat of violence.”.

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