

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5622

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

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. FROST) 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Gun Violence
5 Research Act of 2025”.

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 11 times that of other
9 high-income nations.

10 (3) Guns accounted for 79 percent of homicides
11 and 55 percent of suicides in 2023, totaling over
12 45,000 deaths in the United States.

13 (4) Gun violence disproportionately affects com-
14 munities of color. In 2022, Black Americans were 12
15 times as likely as White Americans to be killed by
16 gun violence while Hispanic and Latino Americans
17 were twice as likely to be killed.

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

24 (6) Research examining the nature, causes, con-
25 sequences, and prevention of gun-related violence,
26 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 II 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 or support research with respect to gun
19 violence.

20 **SEC. 5. RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President, acting
22 through the Director, shall develop and implement a pro-
23 gram to improve public health and safety through research
24 on gun violence, to be known as the “National Gun Vio-

1 lence Research Program”, through activities carried out
2 in collaboration with covered agencies that—

3 (1) support gun violence research;

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

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

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

12 (b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—A covered agency, in car-
13 rying out activities described in subsection (a) under the
14 Program, shall—

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

18 (2) support projects funded under joint solicita-
19 tions by a collaboration of not fewer than two cov-
20 ered agencies;

21 (3) establish interdisciplinary research centers
22 that are organized to investigate basic research
23 questions and inform policy decisions relating to gun
24 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 each covered agency.

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

17 (A) oversee the planning, management,
18 and coordination of the Program;

19 (B) provide for coordination among cov-
20 ered agencies of Federal gun violence research
21 and other activities undertaken pursuant to the
22 Program;

23 (C) establish and periodically update goals
24 and priorities for the Program; and

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

6 (d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
9 President, acting through the Director, shall estab-
10 lish or maintain an advisory committee on gun vio-
11 lence research.

12 (2) COMPOSITION.—The advisory committee es-
13 tablished or maintained under paragraph (1) shall
14 be composed of not fewer than 12 members, includ-
15 ing, to the greatest extent practicable, representa-
16 tives of research institutions, institutions of higher
17 education, health care and social services providers,
18 local government agencies, law enforcement, commu-
19 nity-based organizations, and relevant nonprofit or-
20 ganizations who are qualified to provide advice on
21 the Program.

22 (3) DUTIES.—The advisory committee estab-
23 lished or maintained under paragraph (1) shall as-
24 sess—

1 (A) the management, coordination, imple-
2 mentation, and activities of the Program;

3 (B) the balance of activities and funding
4 across the Program;

5 (C) whether the Program priorities and
6 goals developed by the interagency working
7 group established under subsection (c) are help-
8 ing to improve public health and safety; and

9 (D) the need to revise the Program.

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

12 (1) the National Science Foundation;

13 (2) the National Institute for Standards and
14 Technology;

15 (3) the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
16 tion;

17 (4) the National Institutes of Health;

18 (5) the National Institute of Justice; and

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

22 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry
24 out this section \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
25 through 2031.

1 **SEC. 6. AGENCY ACTIVITIES.**

2 (a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

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

8 (A) to support multidisciplinary research
9 to better understand the nature, causes, and
10 consequences of gun violence, including violence,
11 suicide, unintended injury, and death involving
12 guns;

13 (B) to examine the effects of gun policy
14 interventions on—

15 (i) rates of suicide, homicide, and un-
16 intended injury and death;

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

19 (iii) the gun industry; and

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

23 (2) NATIONAL CENTER FOR VIOLENCE RE-
24 SEARCH.—The Director of the National Science
25 Foundation shall award grants on a competitive
26 basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit

1 organizations (or consortia of such institutions) to
2 establish one or more centers to conduct multidisci-
3 plinary research and education activities in support
4 of the goals and priorities of the Program. Such
5 grants shall be known as “National Center for Vio-
6 lence Research Grants”.

7 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this subsection \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
10 2026 through 2031.

11 (b) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
12 TECHNOLOGY.—

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

19 (A) outreach, coordination, and technical
20 support to relevant industry and nonindustry
21 stakeholders and standards development organi-
22 zations to assist such entities in the develop-
23 ment of voluntary consensus gun safety tech-
24 nical standards;

1 (B) the conduct of research to support ef-
2 forts to develop and improve such standards
3 and conformity assessment; and

4 (C) the development of such standard ref-
5 erence material as the Director determines is
6 necessary to further the development of such
7 standards.

8 (2) PROHIBITION ON REGULATION.—Nothing in
9 this subsection may be construed as conferring upon
10 the Secretary of Commerce any authority to estab-
11 lish or enforce mandatory gun safety standards.

12 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
13 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
14 this subsection \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2026 through 2031.

16 (c) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-
17 ICES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
19 Human Services, acting through the Director of the
20 National Institutes of Health, the Director of the
21 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and
22 other scientific agencies within the Department of
23 Health and Human Services, shall award grants on
24 a competitive basis to conduct or support research

1 into the nature, causes, consequences, and preven-
2 tion of gun violence.

3 (2) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to
4 be appropriated to the Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services to carry out this subsection
6 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through
7 2031.

8 (d) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

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

14 (2) TRACE DATA.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
16 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
17 the Attorney General, in collaboration with the
18 Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall
19 develop consensus protocols for granting re-
20 searchers access to gun trace data that abide by
21 standard principles for ethical research.

22 (B) DATA SHARING.—Not later than 1
23 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
24 Attorney General, acting through the Director
25 of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms

1 and Explosives, shall commence sharing with
2 researchers according to the protocols developed
3 under subparagraph (A), the contents of the
4 Firearms Trace System database and informa-
5 tion required to be kept by licensees pursuant
6 to section 923(g) of title 18, United States
7 Code, or required to be reported pursuant to
8 paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g).

9 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
11 this subsection \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years
12 2026 through 2031.

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