

these retirement coverage errors. Moreover, the measure gives those affected a choice between corrected retirement coverage and the coverage the employee expected to receive, without disturbing Social Security coverage law.

Similar legislation was offered in 1998, and my colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services, held a hearing on the measure at which officials from the Office of Personnel Management and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board testified in support of the bill.

I believe this measure addresses the concerns of federal workers who have been placed in the wrong retirement system. It offers a workable and reasonable solution, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation. I also wish to note that S. 1232 enjoys the support of the Office of Personnel Management and the two largest federal employee unions, the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Treasury Employees Union, that are encouraged by the bipartisan effort that went into crafting this bill.

GUN CRIME COMMITTED BY 18 TO 20 YEAR OLDS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week, Vice President GORE released a new study focusing on the connection between young adults and gun crimes. This report, jointly prepared by the Departments of Treasury and Justice, documents an alarmingly high rate of gun violence among 18 to 20 year olds.

The report shows that while 18, 19, and 20 year olds make up only 4 percent of the U.S. population, they commit an astounding 24 percent of gun murders in our country. In addition, the report shows that 18 year olds commit 35 percent more gun murders than 21 year olds; double the gun murders of 24 year olds; triple the gun murders of 28 year olds; and four times the gun murders of 30 year olds.

There are several loopholes in our current firearms laws that permit young people access to handguns and other deadly weapons. We must close those loopholes, especially for the 18 to 20 year olds, who contribute to such a high percentage of gun crimes. One of those loopholes allows 18 to 20 year olds, minors, to purchase handguns from unlicensed dealers, private collectors or friends, even though it would be illegal for them to purchase the same handgun from a federally licensed dealer.

There are also additional loopholes in federal law that permit 18 to 20 year olds to purchase semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices from anyone willing to sell them. These weapons, such as AK-47s and Uzis, and the 50 rounds per minute clips that accompany them, are not the type of weapons needed for hunting, they are the type needed for

killing, and that is what they are too often used for.

There is strong precedent for imposing minimum age requirements for engaging in dangerous activities. Congress and the states worked together in the past to minimize public safety concerns by ensuring that states raised their legal drinking ages to 21. This was in response to evidence that young adults were involved in proportionately far more driving accidents while intoxicated. Increasing the age requirement for drinking alcohol, reduced automobile accidents dramatically. And, in the first year after Michigan raised its drinking age from 18 to 21, there was a 21 percent decline in alcohol related deaths among drivers age 18 to 20.

Most recently, a report to be released today by a national commission studying the impact of gambling will apparently recommend that the minimum age for all forms of gambling be raised to 21. Although currently most casinos require gamblers to be 21, other forms of gambling, such as state lotteries have an age requirement of 18. The National Gambling Impact Study Commission contends that there should be tighter restrictions on state lotteries and other forms of betting because of the dangers and risks of excessive gambling.

Surely if there are clear and compelling reasons to prevent young people from drinking and gambling, there are even better reasons, as documented by the Gore report, to prevent 18, 19 and 20 year olds from owning an assault weapon or a handgun. I am a cosponsor of legislation introduced by Senator SCHUMER, S. 891, that would prohibit the sale or transfer of these weapons to young adults as well as prohibit possession of these weapons by those under 21, while maintaining exemptions under current law. In my judgment, it is critical that Congress act quickly to close these loopholes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3781. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Matching Credit Card and Debit Card Contributions in Presidential Campaigns", received June 11, 1999; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3782. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "17 CFR Part 10 Rules of Practice"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3783. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "1999 Amendment to Cotton Board Rules and Regulations Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports—Final Rule"

(Docket Number: CN-99-002), received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3784. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Final Free and Reserve Percentages for 1998-99 Zante Currant Raisins" (Docket Number: FV-99-989-3 FIR), received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3785. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of the Sampling Techniques for Whole Block and Partial Block Diversions and Increasing the Number of Partial Block Diversions Per Season for Tart Cherries" (Docket Number: FV-99-930-2 FIR), received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3786. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Horses from Australia and New Zealand; Quarantine Requirements" (Docket Number: 98-069-2), received June 15, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3787. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule for Rating Disabilities; Fibromyalgia" (RIN2900-AH05), received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3788. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans Education: Increase in Educational Assistance Rates" (RIN2900-AJ37), received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3789. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Mortgage Insurance; Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure Notice" (FR-4411) (RIN2502-AH30), received June 15, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3790. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Equal Access to Justice Act Attorney Fees Regulations", received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3791. A communication from the Acting Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effective Date of Application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits" (RIN0960-AE71), received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3792. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice 99-36, Charitable Split-Dollar Transactions" (Notice 99-36), received June 14, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3793. A communication from the Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons,