

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 137

To authorize funding to increase access to mental health care treatment
to reduce gun violence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 authorize funding to increase access to mental health
care treatment to reduce gun violence.

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 “Mental Health Access
5 and Gun Violence Prevention Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Suicide is the leading cause of gun related
9 deaths in America. More than 60 percent of deaths

1 by guns in the country are the result of individuals
2 using these weapons as a means to commit suicide.
3 Some of these deaths might have been prevented if
4 there were adequate background checks.

5 (2) Victims of domestic abuse are more likely to
6 become victims of homicide when a gun is present.
7 Further, individuals who suffer from mental illnesses
8 are more likely to be victims rather than perpetra-
9 tors of violence.

10 (3) Approximately 1 in 4 American adults have
11 a mental illness and nearly half of all adults in
12 America will develop at least one mental illness dur-
13 ing their lifetime.

14 (4) Less than half of children and adults with
15 diagnosable mental health problems receive the
16 treatment they need.

17 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING TO INCREASE AC-**
18 **CESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE TREATMENT**
19 **TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-
21 ney General of the United States, the Secretary of Health
22 and Human Services, and the Commissioner of Social Se-
23 curity \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 to carry out pro-
24 grams and activities authorized by provisions of law other
25 than this Act—

- 1 (1) to increase access to mental health care
- 2 treatment and services; and
- 3 (2) to encourage and assist the reporting of rel-
- 4 evant disqualifying mental health information to the
- 5 National Instant Criminal Background Check Sys-
- 6 tem.

