

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 137

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

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## 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

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## 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.

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