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July 15, 2013

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION ACT OF 2013
Summary of Legislation

In the wake of the Newtown massacre last fall and the recent shootings in Santa Monica, the country remains concerned about our national epidemic of gun violence – its causes, its impact, and the need to prevent such violence altogether.

Preventing or reducing gun violence requires a comprehensive approach. In addition to enhanced background checks, a ban on assault weapons, and limitations on the size of ammunition magazines or storage devices, we must take steps to promote gun safety, strengthen our mental health infrastructure, and support gun violence-related research – all to ensure that we keep our children, our families, and our communities safe.

The Waxman Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction Act of 2013 provides a framework for moving forward in the areas of gun safety, mental health, and gun violence-related research. In brief, the bill would prohibit the sale of certain "homemade" gun kits and parts used in the Santa Monica shootings, target research on serious mental illness, improve access to mental health services for all, and reinforce existing government authorities to carry out public health research on gun violence.

TITLE I: PROMOTING GUN SAFETY

- Prohibits the sale (including Internet sales) of firearm receiver castings or blanks (that when completed function as firearm frames or receivers and are sometimes called "80% receivers" or "95% receivers"), assault weapon parts kits, and machine gun parts kits.

TITLE II: STRENGTEHNING THE NATION'S MENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A: Advancing Research on Serious Mental Illness

- Expands the mission of the National Institute of Mental Health to specifically address research on serious mental illness (SMI), including diseases such as schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder, and severe depression.

- Establishes a new research program on the causes, prevention, and treatment of SMI, as well as interventions to improve early identification and referral for treatment.

Subtitle B: Improving the Mental Health Workforce

- Reauthorizes the Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Program to train psychologists, social workers, and child and adolescent mental health providers.

- Increases funding for scholarships and loan repayments for mental health professionals through the National Health Service Corps.

- Establishes a new initiative, *Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education* (AWARE), that: (1) provides support for various school-based mental health programs, including training for school personnel to identify and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use; (2) reauthorizes the *Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act* that supports suicide prevention services and access to mental health and substance use disorder services for college-aged youth and young adults; and (3) provides support for community-based mental health awareness training (*e.g.*, through programs such as the *Mental Health First Aid Program*) targeted on teachers and other community members who interact regularly with children and youth.

- Establishes a new program to develop continuing education training curricula targeted to health care professionals (including primary care providers, pediatricians, and emergency medical technicians) to identify, refer, and treat individuals with serious mental illness.

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue guidance on the requirements of the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act* (HIPAA) to ensure that HIPAA training includes a clear explanation of the circumstances under which health care providers are permitted or required to disclose protected health information for people with mental illness.

Subtitle C: Expanding Access to Mental Health Services

- Provides support for programs designed to integrate behavioral health services into primary care settings, including programs that co-locate mental health services and coordinate care in organizations such as community health centers.

- Reauthorizes the *National Child Stress Initiative* that addresses the mental, behavioral, and biological aspects of recovery from psychological trauma in children.

- Establishes a new program of federally qualified behavioral health centers (FQBHCs). FQBHCs are community mental health centers (CMHCs) that: (1) meet higher standards of care for treating mental health and substance use disorders; and (2) provide health risk assessments. CMHCs certified as FQBHCs receive enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for the services provided.

- Provides support to states for the construction and modernization of facilities used to provide mental health and substance use disorder services.

- Directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on the availability of inpatient beds for the treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders, including the impact of the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Disease exclusion on individuals with SMI.

- Revises the annual reporting requirements for all Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grantees to both better account for the use of grant dollars and better measure the quality and impact of the services provided.

- Directs the HHS Secretary to ensure that the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* is carried out in accordance with Congressional intent.

Subtitle D: Promoting Mental Illness Public Awareness and Reducing Mental Illness Stigma

- Provides support for a national campaign to promote mental health awareness and reduce the stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness.

TITLE III: UNDERSTANDING THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE

- Reaffirms the authority of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct research (including data collection) on the causes and prevention of gun violence as well as the treatment of injuries related to such violence.

- Directs the HHS Secretary to improve the National Violent Death Reporting System, including through the voluntary participation of additional states in the System.

- Ensures the protection of the confidential doctor-patient relationship as it relates to discussions about gun safety.