

More than 75% of guns used in suicide attempts and unintentional injuries of 0–19 year-olds were stored in the residence of the victim, a relative, or a friend.

The risk of suicide increases in homes where guns are kept loaded and/or unlocked.

UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS AND INJURIES

In 2010, unintentional firearm injuries caused the deaths of 606 people.

From 2005–2010, almost 3,800 people in the U.S. died from unintentional shootings.

Over 1,300 victims of unintentional shootings for the period 2005–2010 were under 25 years of age.

People of all age groups are significantly more likely to die from unintentional firearm injuries when they live in states with more guns, relative to states with fewer guns. On average, states with the highest gun levels had nine times the rate of unintentional firearms deaths compared to states with the lowest gun levels.

A federal government study of unintentional shootings found that 8% of such shooting deaths resulted from shots fired by children under the age of six.

The U.S. General Accounting Office has estimated that 31% of unintentional deaths caused by firearms might be prevented by the addition of two devices: a child-proof safety lock (8%) and a loading indicator (23%).

For years, I have introduced and reintroduced gun safety legislation and supported the efforts of my colleagues who have also worked diligently to protect the lives of our nation's children through adequate gun safety.

I re-introduced H.R. 277 the Child Gun Safety And Gun Access Prevention Act of 2011. This legislation would prevent anyone under the age of 21 from being eligible to own a handgun and would prohibit youth from possessing semiautomatic assault weapons.

Under this legislation parents and supervising adults will be held accountable if a juvenile is able to gain possession of dangerous firearms that are located in their household.

The statistics are clear, firearms in a household must be properly and adequately stored.

A gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used in a completed or attempted suicide (11x), criminal assault or homicide (7x), or unintentional shooting death or injury (4x) than to be used in a self-defense shooting.

Higher household gun ownership correlates with higher rates of homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings.

Keeping a firearm in the home increases the risk of suicide by a factor of 3 to 5 and increases the risk of suicide with a firearm by a factor of 17.

Keeping a firearm in the home increases the risk of homicide by a factor of 3.

A 2009 study found that people in possession of a gun are 4.5 times more likely to be shot in an assault.

My legislation also requires a parent to accompany a minor when attending a gun show.

Our focus should also be on the owners of guns. Parents need to keep guns and ammunition out of the reach of teenagers. Parents should be responsible for securing from their minor children access to dangerous firearms.

Further, my bill is a preventative measure, my legislation encourages school districts to prove or participate in firearm safety programs.

It also addresses the underlying concerns related to violence and suicide. It amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Sec-

retary of Health and Human Services to support programs to promote mental health services among all children and their families and to provide early intervention services to ameliorate identified mental health problems in children and adolescents. This is a multifaceted approach to address this multifaceted issue.

As in years past, I once again will join Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN in advocating for additional gun safety laws. I support Senator FEINSTEIN's bill which she intends to introduce once again in the 113th Congress to ban the sale of automatic assault weapons and ban the sale of big clips, drums or strips of more than 10 bullets. I appreciate Senator FEINSTEIN's leaderships and will continue to join her in advocating to pass this legislation in the 113th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to do all that we can do to reverse this level of gun violence. We must pass common sense gun safety.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3472. An act to amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to provide improvements to such Act.

S. 3687. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF SENATOR INOUYE

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Our country joins the people of Newtown in their grief and loss.

Tonight, we also mourn the sudden passing of our friend and patriot, Senator INOUYE of Hawaii. Senator INOUYE loved his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Irene, Ken, Jessica, and little Maggie. Our sympathies also to his hardworking staff.

Senator INOUYE loved Hawaii, and his work on behalf of Hawaii is legendary. There is no one person who did more to ensure Hawaii's future than Senator INOUYE. He loved his country and received the Medal of Honor in her service.

Senator INOUYE never forgot where he came from. And I'm proud to say that I represented his dear mother, Kame Inouye, in 1980 when I first ran for the State legislature. I'm proud to count Senator INOUYE as my friend since that time. We can best honor Senator INOUYE's legacy by continuing to be strong for Hawaii and our country.

□ 2040

EXTENDING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in support of my dear colleagues from Connecticut and throughout our Nation in extending deepest sympathy and affection to the people of Newtown, Connecticut, as they bear the pain of human loss in the recent Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. Despite the heavy burden of grief they are carrying, the citizens of Newtown have truly inspired our entire Nation. Their spirit has lifted ours as they pay tribute to their children and the heroic teachers and school personnel who so nobly acted to save lives. Surely their extraordinary grace under pressure exemplifies what President John Kennedy defined as courage.

Mr. Speaker, I am including in the RECORD the remarks of Liza Long in an article she published about her son, Michael. We must listen to her. And we must listen to the people of Newtown in memory of each of the precious spirits that have graced it, for their highest aspirations, for an America where this never happens again.

In aiding us in this journey of faith, this article poignantly describes the condition of so many children in our country who are hurting and ill with unquiet minds that even medical science cannot fully explain. I commend President Obama for proposing a special commission to listen to mothers like Liza and to the people of Newtown as we shape a better future for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to commend the new Senator-elect from Hawaii for her very poignant tribute of Senator DANIEL INOUYE with whom we had the privilege of serving these many years.

[From The Blue Review, Dec. 16, 2012]

"I AM ADAM LANZA'S MOTHER": A MOM'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE MENTAL ILLNESS CONVERSATION IN AMERICA

[By Liza Long]

Friday's horrific national tragedy—the murder of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut—has ignited a new discussion on violence in America. In kitchens and coffee shops across the country, we tearfully debate the many faces of violence in America: gun culture, media violence, lack of mental health services, overt and covert wars abroad, religion, politics and the way we raise our children. Liza Long, a writer based in Boise, says it's easy to talk about guns. But it's time to talk about mental illness.

While every family's story of mental illness is different, and we may never know the whole of the Lanza's story, tales like this one need to be heard—and families who live them deserve our help.

Three days before 20 year-old Adam Lanza killed his mother, then opened fire on a classroom full of Connecticut kindergartners, my 13-year old son Michael (name changed) missed his bus because he was wearing the wrong color pants

"I can wear these pants," he said, his tone increasingly belligerent, the black-hole pupils of his eyes swallowing the blue irises.