State and federal laws designed to keep guns from emotionally disturbed people have loopholes. More extensive background checks can keep guns out of the hands of people who pose a threat to themselves or others. President Donald Trump signed a law blocking the Social Security Administration from giving the names of people with relevant mental illnesses to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Contact your U.S. representatives about improving this kind of information sharing.

Take action at 31bullets.suntimes.com/17

There are an estimated 10 billion bullets sold in the U.S. every year. That’s 31 bullets for every man, woman and child. The Chicago Sun-Times is arming people with knowledge, education and social ammunition to fight gun violence. 31 bullets to counter the negative effects of the actual bullets.