

After months of paperwork, background checks and interviews, this family's dreams are now crushed, and there are dozens of cases out there just like the Pongitorys.'

It is truly disturbing that the Russian Government would punish parentless children in retaliation for an entirely unrelated American law. We all know that the wellbeing of children should not be used as a bargaining chip for diplomatic means. This week, I will be introducing a House resolution to right this wrong. Please join me in sending a clear message to the Russian Government.

H.R. 61: HOLDING BIG ABORTION BUSINESSES ACCOUNTABLE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Big abortion businesses are getting rich, and they don't deserve or need our Federal tax dollars. That's why, on this first day of Congress, I introduced the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act. It's H.R. 61.

Planned Parenthood's 2011–2012 annual report showed they received a record \$542 million in taxpayer funding while simultaneously performing a record number of abortions—actually, one every 94 seconds. So, in 94 seconds, they perform that abortion, and they take in over \$1,600 in Federal taxpayer money. Their funding has increased by 11 percent in the last 2 years even though former employees of Planned Parenthood say the organization promotes sex-selection abortions, facilitates human trafficking, engages in coercive behavior, and fails to maintain financial records in accordance with the law.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 61 so we can get ahold of these big abortion businesses, hold them accountable, clean up the title X grant program and end taxpayer funding of abortion.

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RIGHT OF GUN OWNERSHIP

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concern over recent media reports that the administration is considering issuing executive orders to further their radical anti-gun control legislation.

The battle to protect the Second Amendment rights of all citizens rages on in Congress, and this is the appropriate place for such debate—not in the dark of night through executive orders as the Obama administration has become so fond of doing.

Gun control advocates prey on the fears of Americans, claiming that stricter gun laws will result in reduced

gun violence. That theory is false and is dangerous to the sanctity of the United States Constitution. Security can only come through the preservation of individual liberties such as the right to defend one's home and one's family. We should protect the right to keep and bear arms as fiercely as we seek to protect the rights of free speech, the freedom of religion, and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to oppose any efforts by the administration to restrict the rights of gun ownership through executive orders and commit to the American people to tirelessly defend all of their constitutional rights on the floor of this House, including the right of gun ownership.

CONGRATULATING NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY ON FCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. CRAMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Dakota State University Bison and head coach Craig Bohl on winning another FCS national championship on January 5 this year in Frisco, Texas.

NDSU is well known as a student-focused, land grant research university with more than 14,000 students, offering over 100 majors, covering everything from architecture, pharmacy, food science and engineering, to business, biotechnology, music and interior design.

The victory over Sam Houston State was the Bison's second consecutive national championship, an accomplishment even more impressive when considering the Thundering Herd became a Division I program only 8 short years ago. I look forward to following the Bison on many more championship runs and am pleased that Coach Bohl has agreed to a multi-year contract extension rather than pursuing a career in politics.

CBC HOUR: A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. The Congressional Black Caucus, better known as the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. My name is MARCIA FUDGE, and I represent

the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, and I'm currently the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. CBC Members stand firm as the voice of the people and as the conscience of the Congress. We are dedicated to providing focused services to the citizens who elected us to these offices.

Tonight, the CBC will focus its attention on the culture of violence. With no end in sight, the culture of violence continues to permeate and define our society, Mr. Speaker. We cannot hide from it. It is everywhere we go.

Merriam-Webster defines an epidemic as "something affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time." It is clear the culture of violence is an American epidemic. It is time for us to face the music.

We are complicit in the violence that takes place in our Nation if we fail to strengthen our gun laws, if we fail to invest more resources into our mental health services, and address the issue of bullying. We must take meaningful and immediate action to eradicate the culture of violence in our country.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I am joined by a number of members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I now yield to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. DANNY DAVIS.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for not only anchoring this hour, but also providing an opportunity for the rest of us.

I had decided to develop a statement, but then I had 16 young students visit me this afternoon from Oak Park, Illinois, and they presented to me their statement. Their statement was so similar to my statement that I told them that their statement was better than mine and I would use it. So I'm going to read it as they presented it to me. They said:

Hello, my name is Joey Cofsky, and my name is Sebastian Torero, and we are here on behalf of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism to talk about gun violence prevention. We hope that you will offer support for the Fix Gun Checks Act when it is introduced.

Unfortunately, it took an inconceivable amount of gun-related tragedies, and a recent catastrophic elementary school massacre, to once again raise awareness of the need for stricter gun laws. Nearly every day, I hear on the news that a common child has been shot to death in my very own city. Statistics furthermore illuminate this occurrence as eight young Americans die each day under the age of 19 from gun violence. By June of 2012, 228 people were killed in the city of Chicago. In that same period of time, 144 United States soldiers had been killed in Afghanistan. Instead of continuously cringing at these statistics in disbelief every time we read them, it is time to curb the pattern of violence that has made the inner-city streets more violent than our very own battlefields.

Today marks the month anniversary of one of the most horrific mass shootings in our Nation's history. On this day, I personally think about the innocent 20 children whose