

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the importance of the forest products industry as we celebrate National Forest Products Week.

In my home State of New Hampshire, we have a rich tradition of supporting working forests and recognizing the ways in which our forests contribute to our State's economic livelihood and the vitality of our rural communities.

The forest products industry employs over 7,000 Granite Staters. These men and women proudly continue our State's legacy of responsible forest stewardship. From timber production to biomass energy, our forests provide a wide range of sustainably sourced products that citizens and businesses rely on throughout our country.

My district is home to both biomass power plants and wood pellet manufacturing facilities that are important job creators in the renewable energy sector, and I am proud to serve as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Biomass Caucus.

As part of our efforts to underscore the economic and environmental contributions to our Nation's forests, we must rededicate ourselves to preserving these treasured lands for future generations to come.

NDA VETO THREAT

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I think this is absolutely nuts. Yesterday the House and the Senate sent the President the National Defense Authorization bill requesting his signature, which he has now threatened to veto.

I was an Air Force pilot for 14 years, and I sit on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I understand how critical it is that our military be prepared; and to be prepared, they have to be adequately funded.

Vetoing NDAA means that we simply don't provide authorization for funding for our troops. It means we cut our military readiness. It means we can't continue our fight against ISIS. It cuts such critical programs that protect us as our missile defense program. I just simply don't understand it.

The President doesn't have any specific objections to this bill. It funds to the exact level that he has requested. By doing this, the President has ignored the primary responsibility that the Federal Government has to defend and protect the United States.

I hope that the President will not fail in that responsibility. I hope he will sign this critically important bill.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today marks 3 weeks since the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg that cost nine innocent Americans their lives. As that tragedy fades from the headlines, the daily tragedy of gun violence in America drums on.

Last week, in south Florida, Janel Hamilton was shot to death by her godmother's son while watching TV. She was 19 and dreamed of becoming a lawyer.

Last weekend, in Chicago, a 3-year-old boy named Eian Santiago was shot to death by his 6-year-old brother. They were playing cops and robbers.

Last night, in New York City, police officer Randolph Holder succumbed to a gunshot wound in the head. He was responding to gun violence in East Harlem.

In the last 96 hours alone, 91 Americans have lost their lives to gun violence. That is nearly 1 person killed by guns every hour in the United States.

The American people expect us to take action. They expect us to stand up to those who fight to prevent us from taking action; yet, hour by hour goes by in this Congress without hearings, without debate, and without action.

Mr. Speaker, I will be back next week and the week after that and the week after that. Gun violence won't stop until this Congress takes action, and neither will I.

OUR MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, our mental health system is abusive and neglectful to those with a serious mental illness. Worse yet, these policies disproportionately impact minorities and the poor. African Americans are 50 percent less likely to receive psychiatric treatment. Out-patient mental health spending for African Americans is 40 percent lower.

While there is an overall shortage of mental health professionals, only 3 percent of psychiatrists and 2 percent of psychologists are African American. The rate is similar for Latino mental health professionals and worse for Native Americans.

If you are a minority or low income and have a serious mental illness, you are more likely to end up in prison, where 80 percent of inmates don't receive any treatment.

If you are low income, Medicaid makes it harder for you to access inpatient mental health treatment, won't let you see two doctors on the same day, and says, you can't take the medications your doctor prescribed.

Stop this discrimination. I ask Members to cosponsor and pass the Helping Families of Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. People with serious mental

illness can and do get better with help, but where there is no help, there is no hope.

IT IS TIME TO GET REAL ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get real about gun violence in America. As the entrusted voices for millions of Americans, we have a responsibility to address gun violence. In our schools, in our movie theaters, and even in our churches the threat is ever present.

Most recently a dangerous individual went on the campus of a community college in Roseburg, Oregon, and opened fire, taking nine lives and injuring seven. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends as they mourn.

Chris Mintz, a veteran from Randleman, North Carolina, was among those injured while rushing into the crossfire in an effort to defuse the situation. I am honored by his bravery, and I wish him a speedy and full recovery.

From Newtown to Blacksburg, to Aurora, to Charleston, these senseless shootings are becoming far too common. It is not just mass shootings that are bothersome because every day 88 people die because of gun violence. That is more than 30,000 Americans killed every year.

How many lives must be lost before we say that now is the right time to pass commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands? We can make a difference. We must, but we must take action now.

PREVENTABLE CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of our children and salute the medical researchers and the pediatricians who are seeking to find cures for debilitating and preventable childhood diseases.

The leadership of the U.S. is crucial in helping end many of these childhood and maternal deaths. That is why we have included specific provisions in 21st Century Cures for children.

Cures bring benefits. Let me give you an example: polio. In 1988, the World Health Organization had a resolution to support the worldwide eradication of polio. Through the work of American researchers, private citizens, and Rotarians, polio vaccines have nearly eradicated this scourge worldwide.

American leadership should continue to help end preventable childhood and maternal deaths.