

is held by the right owner, stolen guns would be inoperable, drastically decreasing firearm deaths.

Similarly, just like there are childproof caps on aspirin, there should be childproof guns. This will help protect children from accidentally discharging firearms. Smart gun technology is centuries old. Smith & Wesson invented the first childproof trigger over 150 years ago.

While President Obama's executive actions are crucial steps to reducing the senseless gun violence that is plaguing our Nation, they don't absolve Congress of its moral responsibility to act. There are gaps in existing gun laws that leave us all vulnerable to gun violence. These holes are ones that only Congress can plug.

I have two commonsense bills which will complement President Obama's executive actions and help bring a reduction in firearm mortality.

The first bill, H.R. 224, the Recognizing Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency Act, would require the Surgeon General to submit an annual report to Congress on the public health impact of gun violence. The bill currently has 135 cosponsors, and I hope that this commonsense proposal can get an up-or-down vote this year.

For the past 20 years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health have been prevented from conducting research on firearms. This lack of data has limited academic research on guns, and it has prevented Congress from obtaining the data it needs to craft impactful legislation.

The second bill, H.R. 225, the Firearm Safety Act, would close the loophole which prevents the Consumer Product Safety Commission from creating rules regarding the safety of firearms.

Quite simply, if the Consumer Product Safety Commission can regulate teddy bears, bicycle helmets, and car seats, it should be able to regulate firearms. Simply improving safety lock quality and improving storage safety will reduce accidents, misfires, and will prevent theft, saving thousands of lives.

These bills would give Congress the data it needs to pass meaningful and impactful gun violence prevention legislation, and they would ensure firearms are as safe and consumer friendly as possible, all without obstructing the Second Amendment rights of responsible gun owners.

Senseless gun violence has been plaguing our Nation for too long. It is simply unacceptable in the United States of America that gun violence is the leading cause of death for people under 24. It is time for us to come together to end the gun violence that is taking a generation of young Americans.

I applaud President Obama's leadership and his important actions to curb the violence that is plaguing our communities, actions he took because Congress has done nothing, not even call-

ing up bipartisan bills with many cosponsors. Congress must now carry the torch and pass meaningful gun violence prevention legislation.

REPEAL AND REPLACE OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I have voted over 60 times to repeal or to replace all or portions of ObamaCare. I have voted numerous times to defund Planned Parenthood.

These issues have always been held up by the parliamentary rules in the Senate, which is the ability of a minority number of Senators to block bills from coming to the floor. But not now, not today. Under reconciliation procedures, a simple majority vote can move a bill out of the Senate Chamber.

So today we will vote to repeal and replace major pieces of ObamaCare that distort the market, raise prices, and deprive our citizens of choice. The bill today will eliminate the individual mandate and the employer mandate. The government's forcing of our citizens to buy a product that they do not want is un-American and costly. I say good riddance.

We were all aghast over the recordings that were released that highlighted Planned Parenthood's selling of baby body parts. As a Member who believes that individual, distinct life begins at conception, Planned Parenthood's lack of remorse or even of concern highlights its dark business. Today we send a bill to the President's desk to defund Planned Parenthood.

Many of my constituents have told me: We gave you the House majority in 2010. What have you done? We gave you the Senate majority in 2014. What have you done? Why can't you get something to the President's desk?

Today we do. We send a bill to the President's desk that repeals ObamaCare and defunds Planned Parenthood, and it is about time.

PROTECTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, what the new year gives us is an opportunity to refresh, to regroup, to look forward to opportunities in this instance and in this august body to protect the American people.

So today I rise with a great deal of applause and enthusiasm, words that I think do not connote the presentation made by President Obama yesterday, for it is not often the American people can see the deepness of our hearts, the affection we have for them, and the concern that we have over loss of life.

The President did all of that. In his teary expressions, he pierced the hearts of Americans, and he should have

pierced the hearts of the Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats. There is no doubt that thousands are dying from gun violence. There is no doubt that people with guns kill. There is no doubt that more people get guns who should not have guns.

I am particularly excited by the President's thoughtful and collaborative work, along with that of Attorney General Lynch and a number of my colleagues, and of, certainly, the House Judiciary Committee, in particular our ranking member, JOHN CONYERS, those of us Democrats on the committee, and particularly those on the Crime Subcommittee, on which I have the privilege of serving as the ranking member.

We have worked together to have an agenda on criminal justice. The issues dealing with guns deal with criminal justice. Why should we run away from the wide and well-known proposition that there are people who are getting guns without their having had background checks?

Tragically, in my own community, an off-duty officer was attempting to sell guns in an open parking lot or in an open area in which he thought he would be protected. What ensued? A gun battle.

I don't know how those individuals purchasing those guns could have had background checks, but I would say that that is certainly not representative of the many in law enforcement with whom I have engaged who have already said that guns kill and that so many guns in America—more guns, we understand, than there are people—provide for a deadly mixture.

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So I think it is important for the American people to know that the Federal Government has been working, unlike some have said. In 2015, NCIS received more than 22.2 million background checks, an average of more than 63,000 per day. By law, a gun dealer can complete a sale to a customer if the background check comes back clean or has taken more than 3 days.

I think, in this instance, we need to look at the legislation of Mr. CLYBURN, who indicates you must have a background check. I also think we should look and work legislatively with the President. Why would we be against hiring 200-plus more ATF officers? Why would we be against putting more resources in mental health?

I am very proud that I have introduced H.R. 4316—this bill is the Gun Violence Reduction Resources Act—just last evening to add those 200-plus ATF officers. I ask my colleagues to join me. I introduced that with Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY.

I introduced, with Representative KAREN BASS and Congresswoman NAPOLITANO, H.R. 4315, the Mental Health Access and Gun Violence Act of 2016, to increase the resources necessary, yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, how many more need to die? Do we still need to have an amnesia check on Connecticut, San