

honor these victims, and they do nothing to prevent future attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on you to allow us to vote on reinstating the assault weapons ban and legislation to prevent suspected terrorists from buying firearms.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE ORLANDO ATTACK

(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, we all know the facts from the Orlando attack, and they are absolutely heart-breaking. We know that the terrorist pledged his allegiance to ISIS before he carried out the assault and murder of 49 people.

We also know that we need to be supporting our law enforcement. What we are learning is that law enforcement, local law enforcement, is constrained by political correctness. They are constrained by lack of communication. They are constrained, and we have to understand that they are on the front lines in this fight. Congress must listen to the FBI, Homeland Security, and other law enforcement entities and give them the tools that they need to protect our communities.

This attack calls into question the assessment, threat assessment programs, the vetting, and the information sharing that is in place. The FBI twice investigated the Orlando shooter. This reveals vetting is nearly impossible. The vetting process being nearly impossible is one of the reasons that we need to halt the migration of Syrian refugees until a proper process is in place.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE SILENT

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, once again, our country has been shocked by a horrific act of gun violence, and, once again, the only real response from Congress has been a moment of silence.

Well, this is not the time to be silent. Congress needs to act, and Congress needs to act now.

This murderer at the Pulse nightclub of Orlando, who was once on the terror watch list, was free to walk into a store and purchase an assault weapon that could kill 49 people and wound 53 others. Today, someone inspired by ISIS, who was deemed too dangerous to even board a plane, could walk into a gun store to buy whatever weapon they want. That is outrageous. That is why we must pass the no fly, no buy legislation that would keep those on the terrorist watch list from buying lethal weapons.

Unless we act to finally keep the most dangerous weapons out of the

most dangerous hands, our moments of silence will become our legacy of silence.

RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, in June, a gay nightclub—what is supposed to be a safe place where the LGBT community can gather and be who they are—was targeted by violence and bigotry. That was 47 years ago in New York City. The Stonewall riots are considered the very beginning of the gay rights movement, and that is why we celebrate June as LGBT Pride Month, pride for progress made against fear, against HIV/AIDS, against violence, and against the silence that too often greets bigotry, including in this Chamber.

Here we stand today, so much progress, but still so far from true equality. And we see more hatred-fueled violence at a gay gathering place.

What do we do?

I know only because I have seen the path well worn by my LGBT brothers and sisters, whose resilience in the face of adversity inspires me. We organize, we fight for equality and against prejudice. We change the hearts and minds of those who have yet to embrace the fundamental American principle that all are created equal.

This Pride Month we stand up against bigotry and against the silence, and we do it proudly.

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ORLANDO

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard repeatedly, this past weekend, Omar Mateen walked into a nightclub that had been a fixture of Orlando's LGBT community for over a decade and opened fire, killing 49 people and wounding dozens more.

This tragedy was many things. It was an act of terror and the deadliest mass shooting in American history. It was an attack targeting the LGBT community in what was meant to be a safe space on what was meant to be a night of celebration.

Information is still coming in about the perpetrator and his past, and we will continue to learn more in the days ahead. But we do know now that Mateen had been investigated by the FBI for possible terrorist ties and placed on the terrorist watch list. Despite this, he was able to pass a background check and legally purchase a gun.

There were other warning signs as well. He was described by coworkers and family as a violent and unstable

person with a history of domestic abuse. But the loophole by which suspected terrorists can purchase guns is something that we have the power to fix right now with one simple change. The vast majority of Americans agree with us: if you are too dangerous to ride on a plane, you are too dangerous to own a gun.

Let's fix this commonsense loophole.

ORLANDO SHOOTING

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House stood to bow our heads in a moment of silence for gun violence on the House floor for the 27th time since the horrific shooting of children at Sandy Hook Elementary; this time, for the unspeakable murders that took place in Orlando.

A moment of silence for gun violence; that is what we do. We have stood, and we have prayed.

One time, I stood up and said: Now, let's do something. We are not short of solutions.

The American people cannot believe that the Republicans have voted against a bill that says that people on the suspected terrorist watch list should not be able to buy guns. That is right. They would not support that law. They won't support a ban on assault weapons that have no other purpose than to kill people.

Enough is enough. That silence is a deafening silence. We cannot stand to do that anymore without taking real action.

CLOSE THE CHARLESTON LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I often quote Martin Luther King, Jr.'s iconic letter from the Birmingham City Jail when he wrote:

We are going to be made to repent not just for the hateful words and deeds of bad people, but for the appalling silence of good people.

Mr. Speaker, some very dastardly acts have been committed, one of which we will be commemorating the first anniversary of on Friday, June 17, when the people of Charleston, South Carolina, the State, and many across the Nation, will pause to commemorate the lives of nine people who were murdered and the three who survived because our gun laws allowed a young man to purchase a gun whose background check showed he should not have been allowed to purchase a gun. However, the loophole says if the background check is not completed in 3 days, you can still purchase the gun.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to close the Charleston loophole.