

that makes it nearly impossible to block gun sales to suspected terrorists. That is shameful.

The American people deserve a Congress that is willing to stand up to the gun lobby and do what it takes to help keep our communities safe. Congress has a responsibility to listen to the people who we are supposed to represent, to put partisan politics aside, and to bring up commonsense, bipartisan legislation to keep guns away from those who shouldn't have them: suspected terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill. And the American people want those bills brought up now.

More than 30 people are killed every day by someone using a gun. We can't afford to allow more innocent lives to be lost to gun violence.

Just a few weeks ago, 49 innocent people were shot to death in the worst mass shooting our country has ever seen. Sadly, this isn't an insulated case. It has now been 3½ years since the tragedy at Sandy Hook took the lives of 20 elementary school kids and six educators, but for reasons that I will never understand, that horrific tragedy wasn't enough to convince the Republican leadership that something—something—needs to be done to prevent the next tragedy.

Let me give you some numbers:

Three and a half, that is how many years it has been since Sandy Hook; 34,000, that is the number of people who have been killed by someone using a gun since Sandy Hook; 1,182, that is the number of mass shootings that have taken place since Sandy Hook; 520, that is the number of days the House has been in session; 30, the moments of silence that we have observed on this House floor because of gun violence.

Most important, zero. Zero. That is the number of votes that this House has taken to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

What is the majority so afraid of? Is their fear greater than the fear of those young kids at Sandy Hook, or those parishioners in Charleston, or those young people at the nightclub in Orlando?

It is long past time for the House to give us a vote on meaningful legislation to make sure that terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill don't have easy access to guns in our country.

There is bipartisan legislation that would prohibit those on the FBI's terrorist watch list from being able to purchase firearms, and I have authored legislation, which has bipartisan support, to require background checks for all commercial gun sales. Background checks are our first line of defense when it comes to stopping dangerous people from getting firearms. They work. Every day more than 170 felons, some 50 domestic abusers, and nearly 20 fugitives are stopped from buying a gun because of background checks. But in 34 States, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill

can bypass the background check by purchasing guns online, at a gun show, or through an ad in the paper. This is a dangerous loophole that needs to be closed, and it needs to be closed now.

The bill has 186 bipartisan coauthors. Bring our bill up for a vote. There is absolutely no reason why anyone should oppose this background check bill. Not only is it bipartisan, it respects the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

I am a gun guy. I own guns. I support the Second Amendment. If this bill did anything to violate those rights, my name wouldn't be on it.

All this background check bill does is require that folks pass a background check before purchasing guns online, at a gun show, or through an ad. Plain and simple. It does nothing to infringe on the Second Amendment right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms.

This debate on background checks isn't a choice between either protecting the Second Amendment or reducing gun violence. It is about the willingness of a responsible majority to do both. If there is one thing we should all be able to agree on, it is that suspected terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill shouldn't have guns.

Mr. Speaker, give us a vote. Bring up H.R. 1076: bipartisan, effective, no fly, no buy legislation. And bring up H.R. 1217: bipartisan background check legislation.

Mass shootings followed by moments of silence and no action cannot become America's new normal. We need to vote, and we need to vote now.

INACTION IS NOT AN OPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, with over 30 Americans killed by a gun every single day, for far too long I have been saying that inaction is not an option. Yet, in my 3-plus years in Congress, House Republicans have refused to do anything on gun violence. This week's lackluster, Beltway, big-gun-lobby-written bill is the only gun vote this Congress has had.

Why is it that when our country was facing a horrific opioid epidemic, we empowered our local, State, and Federal governments with the resources necessary to combat this issue? And why is it that when a terrorist boarded a plane with a bomb in his shoe, we passed legislation that makes passengers remove their shoes when they go through airport security? Yet, after countless mass shootings and daily violence in the streets of Chicago, Newark, and Baltimore, we do nothing.

Many of us here today are still rightfully discussing the horrible 49 deaths in Orlando a few weeks ago, but I would like to share two other statistics with you about gun violence since Orlando.

During our honorable colleague, Senator CHRIS MURPHY's 15-hour filibuster,

48 people in America were shot. Forty-eight people in 15 hours. In Chicago, the last month has seen 79 people lose their lives to gun violence. Seventy-nine lost souls:

Fabian Lavinder; Kevin Montell Atkins, Jr.; Victor Felix; Marshaun Clinkscale; Kaysar Chako; Joseph Harden; Jamaal Bellamy; Christian Bandemer; Daniel Alcantara; Anthony Howard; Darnell Hardeman; William Palmer; Kori O. Sellers; Dontay Murray, Jr.; Donkel Riley; Anreco Nichols; Sami Salaymeh; Victor Sanders; Lewis Johnson; Lanarris Webster; Dawson Stephan; Paul Webster; Terry Bates, Jr.; Jeremy Ray; Fatimah Muhammed; Travell Montgomery; Timothy Boyd; Christopher Fields; Javil Nunn; Antwon Brooks; Dwayne Triplett; Jordan Liggins; Davion Barron; Adrian Watson; Antoine Randle; Steven Edwards; William Sandifer; Antonio Perkins; Jeremy Rodgers; Denzel Thornton; Angelo Davis; Demetrius Archer; Marshaun Jackson; Victor Robinson; Melvin Cook; Charles Wiley; Latrell McMahon; Eric Knox; Eric Smith; Margaret Shanahan; Alejandro Rosas; Michael A. Brown; Carlton Hall; Salvador Suarez; Otis Richmond; Eugene Singleton; Ramal Hicks; Amari Catchings; Stanley Boston; Jessica Hampton; Eric Burgin; Trevell Parker; Jeremy Clark; Brandon Nolls; Reginald Turner; Trayvon Wilson; Wondale Collier; Selton Ellis; Frederick Johnson; Lonnie King; Kentrail McCray; Alfondia Kelly; Matusalem Gutierrez; Darrell Guy, Jr.; Marshaun Hilson; Chanda Foreman; Robert Vaughn; Kenneth Whitaker; Hector Badillo, Jr.; and Willie Pittman.

We were led during our sit-in 2 weeks ago by an icon, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and I was very, very, very proud to participate and would do it again. He is fond of referencing a dream he shared with his mentor, a mentor of many of us, Dr. King, the dream of the Beloved Community, a place where people of all races, creeds, religions, and gender identification can live together in peace.

Certainly there is no place for assault rifles in the Beloved Community. There is no place for gun rights for terrorists in the Beloved Community. There is no place for gun rights for criminals and the dangerously mentally ill in the Beloved Community. In the Beloved Community, no child has to live a life where going to the park risks them from being mowed down by a stray bullet.

I will keep fighting and speaking out until we honor these victims' lives with action, not with moments of silence.

WE HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, in the month of June, 22 people were murdered by guns in Los Angeles. The oldest person

was 46, and the youngest was 3. On one day alone, June 11, eight people were killed. We all know the statistics: every 24 hours, 30 people are killed in the United States by guns. The leading cause of paralysis is gun violence.

People around the Nation have demanded action from Congress. When I returned to my district after the protest, I was met with cheers and standing ovations. People said, Finally, finally they saw us act. Finally, they saw us fight. Fight against the NRA, which has a stranglehold on Congress. My constituents reflect the over 90 percent of the U.S. public that is demanding that we act and pass legislation to address the carnage from gun violence.

I am proud to say that the State legislature in California has acted. Now Congress needs to act. The Governor signed five bills recently passed by the legislature. In California it is now against the law to possess ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. Background checks are now required to purchase ammunition. The Governor signed bills that ban bullet buttons designed to make it easy to detach a magazine and reload, a creative idea from gun manufacturers to get around the assault weapon ban when it was in effect.

Other bills signed by the Governor prohibit the lending of guns to family members who have not completed background checks, and people who knowingly make false reports about the loss or theft of a gun cannot possess firearms for 10 years. The bills were signed too late to have saved the 22 people who died in Los Angeles, but I have no doubt that these laws will help reduce death and injury from gun violence.

I am proud California is setting an example for the Nation, and it is my hope after the tremendous public response and demand that we act, that we pass sensible legislation to bring an end to the deaths and injuries. It is very difficult to explain to constituents how someone considered too dangerous to purchase an airline ticket is not too dangerous to buy a gun.

The no fly, no buy legislation authored by Republican Representative PETER KING is a modest piece of legislation that is really a first step. All of us are clear, much more needs to be done: comprehensive background checks, closing the gun show loophole.

My Republican colleagues argue that we don't need any new laws, we just need to enforce the ones we already have, but then hypocritically claim the President is overstepping his authority when he increases resources to the ATF so that they can modernize their technology to address Internet sales. The last time serious legislation was passed, the Internet didn't exist.

The shooter who killed the nine churchgoers in South Carolina might have been blocked from purchasing a weapon, but his background check wasn't processed in time. Three days or you get your gun. Without the staffing

and the technology, 3 days is almost impossible; and although he shouldn't have had a gun because of a prior arrest, he was able to purchase anyway.

As a nation, at some point we have to make a decision. The decision is ours. As a legislative body, we have to decide who rules this place.

Is it a handful of industries that dictate what we do?

I can name just a few industries that cause my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote however the industry decides, not their constituents. If they voted with their constituents who, poll after poll, say 85 percent of Republicans support sensible gun control. They vote the way an industry dictates or they face the consequences of an independent expenditure campaign and an opponent.

In memory of the following people who were killed in one day in Los Angeles, I mention their names:

June 11, Jesus Alfredo Duran, 31 years old;

June 11, Eddie Hernandez, 22 years old;

June 11, Stephanie Gonzalez, 17 years old;

June 11, Kimberly Gonzalez, Stephanie's sister, 13 years old;

June 11, Johnny Mark Elizalde, 27 years old;

June 11, Juan Zataray, 43 years old;

June 11, Jose Rene Espinoza, 46 years old;

June 11, Cynthia Ambriz, 19 years old.

□ 1230

WE NEED MEANINGFUL GUN LEGISLATION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, when this House last convened, a number of us were willing to sit in, in order to stand up—to stand up to the gun lobby, to stand up against gun violence. During our protest, House Republicans fled Washington, rather than face accountability on gun safety, leaving behind significant unfinished business.

During the past week, many of us across the country have joined neighbors in a national day of action against gun violence. I joined over 100 people in San Antonio, gathering with Patricia Castillo with the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, Jamie Ford with Moms Demand Action, and State Senator Jose Menendez.

On a hot afternoon in Austin, Texas, more than 100 of us also gathered with Mayor Steve Adler, Andrea Brauer from Texas Gun Sense, members of the Austin City Council, State Representative Donna Howard, and other elected officials, all asking this Congress to respond to the horrific wave of gun carnage that threatens the security of our families. Each of these gatherings included powerful testimony from family tragedies and losses as a result of guns.

After the mass murders in Orlando and San Bernardino, carried out by in-

dividuals professing a twisted version of Islam, the most obvious next step is to question why, if someone is too dangerous to get on an airplane with you, they ought to be able to buy as many assault weapons as they would like? And ask why, in Orlando, the law enforcement officials did not hear about assault weapon purchases of one person who had been on the terrorist watch list? One of the three modest bills about which we were sitting-in would institute a no-fly, no-buy restriction.

The day after our protest, to their credit, four of our Republican colleagues here in the House, for the first time, introduced a version of a proposal to prohibit such gun purchases, but also to provide a means by which someone could get off the no-fly list if they were on it improperly.

This proposal copies verbatim one proposal that has been offered by Republican Senator SUSAN COLLINS. Hers is the only proposal pending in the United States Senate today that has not already been rejected. I think it is time for us to come together to unite behind this proposal. It is a modest step forward, but it is a step forward to address gun violence.

Instead, we are told today that Speaker RYAN is, apparently, committed to blocking this bipartisan initiative and anything else that doesn't have a seal of approval from the National Rifle Association. Apparently, the only provision on which we will be allowed to vote here in this House is a proposal that the Senate has already rejected.

This isn't action. It is theatrics. It is the appearance of the response to the concern of so many Americans for action on gun safety, without changing anything.

Under this gun lobby proposal, in order to prevent a gun purchase, the Justice Department would be required to obtain a court order within 72 hours to prove probable cause that a person has "committed, conspired to commit, attempted to commit, or will commit an act of terrorism." Well, if our law enforcement can do that, they should not only be preventing a person from acquiring a gun, they ought to be taking them to prison.

So much attention has focused on the sit-in on this floor, not enough has focused on the "sit-on." I am talking about the Speaker, who sits on any legislation concerning gun violence, including that advanced by fellow Republicans, if it does not have approval of the gun lobby.

We just celebrated Independence Day. How about the Republicans declaring independence from the gun lobby? Just once, in a very small, modest way declaring independence on a proposal that Republicans themselves have advanced—a few of them—to address more security for our families.

The Republican leadership has tried so very desperately to avoid accountability on gun safety. They cut off these microphones. They fled the