

this town right now is not about sit-ins. The real scandal is not about inaction. The real scandal is that this isn't that hard. This isn't that hard.

Eighty-five percent of Americans say no fly, no buy. Eighty-eight percent say support the Constitution. So let's do that. Let's stand with those who support no fly, no buy. Let's stand with those who support the Constitution. And let's give some level of hope to cling to, to the 90 percent of this country who disapprove of what is happening in this Chamber right now.

A demand for a bill that will go nowhere only promises inaction that makes its way into political commercials in November. Ignoring the fact that America wants no fly, no buy is also catering to the politics of November.

Let's cast aside this current debate and recognize that the solutions are right in front of us if we extract the politics out of this.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week Congress concluded with a spotlight on gun safety and the yawning chasm between the attitudes of the Republican-controlled Congress and the needs and desires of the American people.

Why should America be the only developed Nation on the planet that cannot protect its families from gun violence? Obviously, there are no simple solutions in a Nation where there is a gun for every adult, where a half-dozen people have been killed in recent years by their pets, and even babies kill parents and their siblings with guns.

Too many people feel that more guns and fewer protections is the solution, obscuring the fact that the overwhelming majority of the American public agrees that there are things we can do and that it is irresponsible and cynical not to try.

For more than 24 hours last week, my Democratic colleagues and I discussed many of these solutions on the floor of the House, demanding action on three. For instance, over 90 percent of the American public and a majority of gun owners agreed that there should be no anonymous secret purchases of weapons. There should be a universal background check. People who cannot buy firearms at a gun store should not be able to buy guns over the Internet or at gun shows anonymously.

The American public supports us in our efforts to make it harder for people the government has deemed too dangerous to buy a plane ticket to purchase assault weapons. And it is past time to eliminate the outrageous prohibition against the Centers for Disease Control to even study the epidemic of gun violence that kills three or four Americans every hour.

These solutions are not really that hard. They would be a signal that we are serious about trying to change the gun violence equation that kills about 90 people every day.

I returned to Oregon last week and had encouraging meetings with dozens of people who have been leading the charge in my home State, who are redoubling their efforts. They have demonstrated that steps can be taken through the political process and are committed to building upon their commonsense actions. For example, they led the charge to prevent people with a history of domestic violence and restraining orders from purchasing guns.

The Oregon Legislature finally enacted universal background checks, like we are seeking at the Federal level, and the Oregon House of Representatives even passed legislation last session that would have closed the so-called "Charleston Loophole" where law enforcement has a 10-day delay for a purchase if the police are unable to determine that purchaser's qualifications.

I was impressed and encouraged that these ordinary citizens, so devoted to this cause, are committing to taking on the issue further at the State and local level and making it an issue in the political elections in the fall wherever they can. It is only that type of activity that will overcome the inertia, the temerity, and the cynicism of people who are apologists for gun violence.

The same way we embarked upon a decades-long crusade to reduce traffic fatalities that cut that death rate in half, we need to embark on a similar crusade to reduce gun violence.

The Members who took to the floor over 24 hours showed a powerful expression of policy and emotion that used to be seen on the floor of this House but is, sadly, seldom in evidence today. But it is not too late. Congress should do its part to at least allow the issue the attention and the consideration we would give to any other public health crisis and end the shame of being the only developed Nation on the planet that cannot protect its families from gun violence.

#### WEST VIRGINIA FLOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGELL). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, West Virginians are facing tremendous hardship from devastating floods we experienced nearly 2 weeks ago. In a matter of hours, more than 20 people were killed, hundreds of homes destroyed, and thousands of residents' lives were turned upside-down.

Through the heartbreak, stories of heroism have emerged. Neighbors have offered a helping hand to strangers. Our churches and schools have opened their doors to people in need and those who have lost their homes are still volunteering at our command centers and food lines.

This is what makes West Virginia special. When things get tough, we get working. We band together and we are stronger together.

I have traveled throughout our flood-ravaged communities doing what I can to support our recovery. Along the way, I have met brave people, selfless people, and some of the kindest people you would ever get a chance to know.

In the basement of the Summersville Baptist Church, thousands of family photographs from just one family lay on tables curled and soaked in floodwater. Church youth group members worked to take each picture out of its frame or album and spread them out to dry. This parishioner may have lost her home, but this spirit of community is helping preserve her memories.

In Rainelle, I met an 18-year-old who had just joined the volunteer fire department. His job after the floodwaters receded was to recover and retrieve bodies and then stand guard over them in the fire department. He has seen and done things that no one should have had to experience, but he kept doing his job as a volunteer for his community, serving his community.

I met a lady sheltered the first night in Ansted who was rescued after hours in her one-story home that had filled with 4 feet of water. She survived the horrific event by relying on her deep faith, knowing she was in God's hands.

The road ahead will be tough. We have a very long way to go. We will always remember and honor those whom we lost, and we will offer our love and support to those rebuilding their lives.

I know we will rebuild. We will repair our schools, restock our library shelves, repave our roads, and reconstruct our bridges. We will be there for each other.

We are West Virginians, and it is our home.

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#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the American people have had enough. They have had enough with the epidemic of gun violence in our country. They have had enough with House Republicans' obstruction of bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment legislation to help keep guns away from those who shouldn't have them—terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill—because whether it is in a movie theater, on a college campus, at an elementary school, in a church, in a nightclub, or on the streets of our cities, we have lost far too many innocent lives to gun violence.

Let me give you some numbers: 3½, that is the number of years since the