

that we actually take up some legislation instead of the Republican majority continually ducking the conversation:

Rachel Scott, 17.
Daniel Rohrbough, 15.
Dave Sanders, the teacher, 47.
Kyle Velasquez, 17.
Steve Curnow, 14.
Corey DePooter, 17.
Cassie Bernall, 17.
Daniel Mauser, 15.

I was just on a telephone townhall with Daniel Mauser's father last week talking to my constituency about gun violence. Columbine happened in 1999, and 17 years later you can hear the pain in that father's voice about that death.

Matt Kechter, 16.
Kelly Fleming, 16.
Isaiah Shoels, 18.
John Tomlin, 16.
Lauren Townsend, 18.

All were cut down just as they were beginning the prime of their life.

Then the Aurora movie theater 4 years ago, July 20—4 years ago. Have we had one hearing since then, Mr. Speaker? Not one. Not one. Not one vote, not one hearing.

Jonathan Blunk, 26.

A.J. Boik, 18.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Jesse Childress, 29.

Gordon Cowden, 51, a father protecting his kids in that theater.

Jessica Ghawi, a reporter.

Navy Petty Officer Third Class John Thomas Larimer, an expert in cyber security for the Navy.

Matt McQuinn, 27, died protecting his girlfriend.

Micayla Medek, 23.

Veronica Moser-Sullivan, 6.

Alex Sullivan, 27, again, saving his girlfriend.

Alex Teves, 24.

Rebecca Wingo, 32.

We can't keep this up. We want a vote. We did something unprecedented last week by having a filibuster in the House, which turned into a sit-in, to make our voices heard that this can't keep going on.

We all had a good friend, Gabby Giffords, shot in a mass shooting in Tucson, Arizona, 5½ years ago. Have we had one hearing? No. Have we had one vote? No.

We are asking for two things, Mr. Speaker, two votes. That is it. It is common sense: no fly, no buy and universal background checks. We are not going away. This subject is not going away. We want a vote.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, once again, we are on this floor, many of us just asking—just asking—Congress to do its job, just asking Congress to act.

Just a few minutes ago, an American woman was standing right here on the

steps of our Capitol—your Capitol, America—and she was talking about how she has never talked publicly about the incident that took her 10-year-old daughter's life, about a man who should not have been able to buy a gun.

He went online and bought a 9-millimeter handgun. He came to her home, broke into the backdoor and said that he was going to kill her. She ran for her 10-year-old daughter to flee from this man, and in the process, she was shot, and so was her daughter. She told the gruesome story about how her daughter died in her arms—her 10-year-old little girl.

But, ladies and gentlemen, that is the story of 32,000 families every year in our great Nation. Many of you may be thinking: Well, I live in a small town somewhere where everybody knows each other; that is not going to happen.

I am sorry. It happens everywhere.

Some people might think: Well, that just happens in the big cities like Chicago.

I am sorry, ladies and gentlemen, it happens in every ZIP Code around the country.

We are less safe today, ladies and gentlemen, than we have ever been in America. Today, there are more weapons—firearms—in America than there are people. More than 320 million Americans live in our great Nation, and there are more than 320 million guns across America.

There are reasons why we are less safe today than we have ever been before in America, and it is not because of terrorists. It is because Congress refuses to act.

Let me give you an example.

In 1996, the United States Congress banned the Centers for Disease Control from studying gun violence and also said that you will not—you shall not—give our best minds in our greatest universities the grants they would need to actually find out why are so many people dying. What are the reasons why that is happening? So Congress refuses to be informed. Congress literally, on this issue, has chosen to remain ignorant on purpose, and that contributes to 10-year-old little girls who die because a man went online and bought a gun and there were no background checks.

Most Americans believe that, for God's sake, a background check is sensible. Why not? But yet Congress refuses to have a vote on the floor of this House so that we could debate that issue and then vote it up or down.

Every Member of this House who runs for office utters the words, "public safety is my number one issue." I do, and so does every person who runs for office. Every person who gets elected to this House of Congress gets elected for a 2-year term. That means that, in the time that we get sworn in on the floor of this prestigious House, by the time we run for office—and if we are fortunate enough to get elected again—

more than 60,000 Americans will die due to gun violence in those 2 years.

That doesn't make sense. I would hope and think that we are electing people to do sensible things, to do things the right way, and to do things that are right for America that will keep us safe. All we are asking for, ladies and gentlemen, is to have a vote on sensible laws that would help keep our streets safer.

I announced on this floor that I am now a grandfather. It is such a beautiful feeling. But in my lifetime, my children's lifetime, and now in my grandson's lifetime, our streets are not safer.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's demand that our Speaker allow a vote on sensible gun legislation in this House.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago today, I sat down right there on this floor next to JOHN LEWIS. Gathered around were House Democrats demanding a simple demand: that we have a vote on two bills that would make our streets safer from gun violence.

Last week when I went home, I stood with hundreds of people on Federal Plaza in Chicago demanding the very same thing. We sat down as we stood up for gun safety.

Right now, hundreds of people are outside, some standing on the steps, 91 of them wearing orange T-shirts, representing the average of 91 Americans killed by guns every day in the United States of America.

I am from Chicago, and just last night, NBC News ran a story on gun violence in Chicago, titled, "City Under Siege." Over the Fourth of July weekend, 50 people were shot in Chicago. Three of the victims were children, including two young cousins, 8 and 5 years old, who were shot while celebrating with their family. On one street, someone put a handmade sign that read, "Don't shoot kids at play."

The stories of children caught in the middle of the ongoing gun violence epidemic are seemingly endless.

Just last week, D'Antignay Brashear was walking down the street in Chicago with her 4-year-old son, Kavan, when he was shot in the face. Speaking about the shooting the next day, D'Antignay said: "He was with me. He was holding my hand." She thought he was safe.

We cannot accept the status quo when children are unsafe walking down the street holding their mother's hand.

Kavan survived. But his mother said: "How am I going to explain to him when he looks in the mirror and sees his face?" I wonder, how do we explain to Kavan and his mother that this House refused to take action to prevent this from happening to him or to any other child?