

GUN VIOLENCE SIT-IN

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I brought our historic gun violence sit-in back home to my district in Los Angeles to give my constituents a chance to make their voices heard. Over 100 people joined me to demand action from this Congress. Many of them had messages for you, Speaker RYAN, and I promised that I would bring their stories back to Washington and make sure that you heard them.

Shannon Ross stood with tears in her eyes at our sit-in, holding a photo of her cousin, as she explained that she had been shot and killed just blocks away from where our event was held.

Sarah Wirtz, whose niece was killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, talked about the painful decision her sister had to make, deciding whether to bury her daughter with her favorite stuffed animal or keep it to remember her by.

A war veteran from Compton told the crowd that, even though his son was shot and killed 24 years ago, he still cries every day.

Nora, a mother from San Pedro, said that she lives in fear of her son being shot because he is gay.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on you to listen to the stories of the people in my community and communities across this country. Empathize with the pain they feel every day, and allow us to vote on real solutions to prevent gun violence.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge passage of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which Congressman TIM MURPHY introduced into Congress. I am a proud cosponsor.

Federal mental health programs are a patchwork of antiquated programs across many agencies. Jails have become de facto mental health facilities. As a caregiver to a family member with a mental health diagnosis, I know how difficult finding proper treatment can be.

The country is also experiencing an epidemic of drug use, closely related to mental health disorders. It is time we recognize these problems for what they are: diseases creating a public health emergency.

Mr. MURPHY's bill creates a leadership post at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Among other provisions, it removes legal barriers to families trying to help loved ones and provides incentives for more mental health professionals to join the field. It authorizes State grants and requires better data analysis.

Last year, for the first time in a decade, the U.S. death rate rose due to increased drug abuse and suicide. To turn the tide, I urge my colleagues to vote for the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, every day, 170 felons, 50 domestic abusers, and 20 fugitives are prevented from buying a gun after a background check raised a red flag.

Unfortunately, loopholes allow buyers to circumvent background checks at gun shows and over the Internet, which represents 40 percent of all gun purchases. This practice is neither safe nor smart. It is not fair to responsible gun buyers or sellers.

Closing these loopholes has broad bipartisan support. In fact, 90 percent of Americans—and 81 percent of Republicans—support background checks for all gun purchases.

Congress can and should do more to prevent gun violence. Background checks can keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals, fugitives, and people under investigation for terror activity.

It is time for a vote on this common-sense and bipartisan measure. Let's close these loopholes and keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

IMMIGRATION POLICIES HURT AMERICANS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, two recent reports demonstrate the degree to which Federal immigration laws are not enforced by this administration.

A new study by the Center for Immigration Studies shows that almost 1 million illegal immigrants have been ordered deported but remain in the country. The administration doesn't seem to care. A second report found that the administration refuses to take the steps necessary to send criminal immigrants back to their countries of origin. As a result, thousands of dangerous criminal immigrants are released into our neighborhoods; one-third commit additional crimes, including murder and sexual assault, against innocent Americans.

Our borders are not secure. One-half million people come into the U.S. illegally every year. But the administration, instead of enforcing laws, wants to give amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. The immigration policies of this administration continue to hurt Americans.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Auburn, Washington, March 31, 2013:

Nicholas Lindsay, 25;

Lorenzo Duncan, 23;

Antuan Greer, 21.

Suwanee, Georgia, July 22, 2015:

Jerry Manning, 75 years old;

Rebecca Manning, 37;

Jacob Smith, 9;

Jared Smith, 8.

Baltimore, Maryland, January 23, 2013:

Deshaun Jones, 15.

Chattanooga, Tennessee, January 23, 2015:

Demetrius Davis, 19.

St. Louis, Missouri, January 25, 2013:

Terry Robinson, Jr., 28.

Cedar Bluff, Alabama, November 16, 2015:

Sylvia Duffy, 71;

Clara Edwards, 68;

Pamela O'Shel, 48.

Jonesboro, Arkansas, May 3, 2014:

Crisanto Islas, 38;

Richardo Lopez, 31;

Floza Davila, 12;

Brayam Davila, 10.

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FIDUCIARY RULE

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, 33 percent of Americans have no retirement savings. This is why it is so difficult to understand why the Department of Labor recently finalized a "fiduciary rule" that will harm the ability of Americans, especially those of modest means, to save for retirement.

By imposing new and needlessly burdensome standards on financial experts who provide investment advice to Americans, the "fiduciary rule" will price many retirees out of the market, causing a "guidance gap" which will lead to Americans saving less money or worse, not saving at all. We can't allow this burdensome rule to wreak havoc on the financial future of American citizens.

I am proud to stand up for low- and medium-income Minnesotans who are trying to save for retirement today by voting to prevent the implementation of this misguided rule. Despite the President's veto, I remain committed to preventing this rule from harming the futures of everyday Minnesotans.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, in my district, we gathered with survivors of