

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

gun violence and supporters of gun reform to hold our own sit-in, in Carl Schurz Park, protesting the fact that this Congress has not acted on sensible gun violence reform. No more moments of silence. We want action on the floor to protect our people.

We heard from many victims like Kim Russell. Her life was spared, but her friend was murdered when robbers broke into their home. She lives in fear that the attacker will get his hands on another gun and kill other people.

We need to answer to Kim and to the families of the 49 gunned down in Orlando and to the thousands of other victims of gun violence and the hundreds of other victims that are outside today on the steps of the Capitol urging us to vote, urging us to act.

Have a vote. If you want to vote against it, fine, but let's have a vote on two sensible bills: no fly, no buy, and comprehensive background checks. Let's protect our people. Let's act on sensible gun protection.

COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it has been over 2 years since my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. TIM MURPHY, first introduced this comprehensive mental health bill. And every day since then, the country watched as Representative MURPHY, a clinical psychologist, continued his uphill battle to overhauling our frequently and significantly broken mental health system.

Slowly but surely, strides were made. Not only did his message resonate here in Congress, but it brought a lot of hope to many suffering around the country with this illness.

It is no surprise to anyone here today that we have a mental health crisis in this country. Yet, the chaotic system that exists today, while may be well-intended, is the exact reason why so many individuals are left to fend for themselves, many times finding themselves in prison, homeless, or hospitalized.

The system is broken, but this bill gives us the option to change that. By replacing the duplicative and ineffective programs with evidence-based care, reforming outdated privacy laws, enhancing coordination with oversight from actual experts in psychology, and increasing access to psychiatric resources, we can provide hope to those suffering that help is on the way for them.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this extremely important bill, H.R. 2646, and thank Congressman MURPHY for his diligence and for sticking to it.

TERRORIST LOOPHOLE/UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(Miss RICE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, before I was elected to Congress, I was a prosecutor for more than two decades, and I am thinking today of all the times I have sat with devastated mothers and fathers whose sons and daughters had just been taken from them.

I think about how small our debates must seem to them, how insulted they must be when they hear Members of Congress suggest that there is simply nothing we could have done to prevent their child's murder.

There are meaningful actions we can take today. We can require background checks for all commercial gun sales in America. And when the FBI and the Attorney General have reason to believe that someone is engaged in terrorist activity, we can give them the authority to prohibit that person from buying a gun. That is common sense. These two actions will save lives and will not in any way restrict the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding American citizens.

While I appreciate that the Speaker may allow at least one vote on a bill related to gun violence this week, it is not a meaningful bill. It allows the government to prohibit the sale of a gun to a suspected terrorist only if they can show probable cause that the person is engaged in terrorist activity with a 72-hour deadline.

Victims of gun violence deserve more than that. Their families and friends deserve more than that. The American people deserve and demand more than that.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EDNA YODER

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a very special moment, to recognize a wonderful woman, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, someone who has been one of the most important role models in my life, my grandmother, Edna Yoder.

Last week, Edna marked the milestone of her 105th birthday, and we gathered as a family to celebrate her. The Lord has blessed her with great health and good spirits, and I cannot be more thankful for her and proud to have her as part of my family.

She is a sweet, caring, and loving woman who values the important things in life: her faith in God and her family. She is a true example of what makes America such a strong and vibrant Nation.

Born in 1911, as one of 14 children, she spent her life on the farm working tirelessly, milking cows at dawn and bring-

ing in the wheat harvest in the hot Kansas sun. She has seen hard times and good times, lived through 18 different Presidential administrations, 22 different Speakers of the House, with a front seat to the great American century.

Today, Grandma, on behalf of the United States Congress, I wish you a belated happy 105th birthday and many more to come. I love you.

UNDOCUMENTED TEXAS VALEDICTORIANS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mayte Ibarra and Larissa Martinez, two undocumented valedictorians from Texas, for their academic achievement and bravery amid the anti-immigrant rhetoric that was wielded their way.

Mayte and Larissa's educational excellence is living proof of the American Dream. No matter what your immigration status may be, if you work hard and dream, anything is possible. Their determination and academic success, despite the personal obstacles that were in front of them, helped get them into the University of Texas and Yale.

Larissa's valedictorian speech reminds us of how important immigration reform is. I want to read you a quote. "The most important part of the immigration debate and the part most often overlooked is the fact that immigrants, undocumented or otherwise, are people too. They are people with dreams, aspirations, hopes, and loved ones."

We should all take this message to heart, Mr. Speaker, no matter what your political background may be. We can no longer ignore the anti-immigrant rhetoric that we hear today. Instead, let's praise Larissa and Mayte's academic success and work to remove barriers to prevent any hardworking student from achieving the American Dream.

IN HONOR OF CORA WILSON, STOP THE VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Cora Wilson, let's stop the violence. I rise today to tell the story of Cora Wilson, a 34-year-old mother from Birmingham, Alabama, who was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend in front of her eight children on May 12, 2016.

Like many women who suffer from domestic violence, Cora Wilson endured abuse for too long. On a Wednesday night in May of 2016, her abuser ignored the restraining order and showed up at the house, where he killed Ms. Wilson and shot four of her children.

I cannot mourn this tragedy with my community without doing all that I