

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, children and families across the country rely on their leaders in Congress for much more than thoughts and prayers. They need us to take action to keep them safe.

Gun violence in this country is a horrifying epidemic. There have been 18 school shootings in the past 7½ weeks. It is even hard to talk about this.

It is difficult to argue, though, with people who are looking at Congress and wondering whether too many Members in Congress are too close to the NRA and the gun manufacturers. Congress actually passed a law to prevent the CDC from even studying gun violence.

In difficult times, I, too, seek thoughts and prayers from friends, clergy, and family, but this is not stopping the slaughter. I agree with police officers across the country who say: Get the AR-15s out of the hands of dangerous people now. Our children are being massacred in their schools.

Madam Speaker, Speaker RYAN must put bills on the floor to address gun violence or his party will go down in history as the party that blocked solutions to this crisis.

HONORING SHELAGH SWEENEY

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

Mr. FASO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Hurley Fire Department member Shelagh Sweeney.

Shelagh was named Hurley Fire Department's first female Firefighter of the Year. Her service and dedication to her community as a firefighter, EMT, and field training officer for mobile life support services is most admirable.

Her inspiration to join the fire department came from her attendance of a first-aid class during her time at SUNY Ulster. Continuing her education by taking classes at Marist College is a testament to the dedication she reflects with her service to her community.

Shelagh's selfless service to the community, while striving for further personal growth, is greatly appreciated, and I wish her the best in continuing on her journey.

INVESTING IN THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, this week, the President unveiled a budget proposal that would not only endanger the health and safety of the American people and our environment, but also jeopardize the long-term stability of our infrastructure systems.

It completely ignores what we know about climate change, proposing a 61 percent reduction in funding for renew-

able energy research and cutting critical enforcement tools and public safety regulations.

It also lacks the foresight to produce a forward-thinking plan that will ensure a stable and resilient infrastructure future. In fact, it seeks to eliminate essential programs like ARPA-E, which supports early stage energy research and development.

Nationwide infrastructure systems like the electric grid must be updated to anticipate severe weather and climate conditions. We have seen the toll that national disasters take on our electric grid.

Smart planning and investment is essential to ensuring that we have the proper resources to maintain and operate these essential structures.

The President has spoken at length about investing in our infrastructure. Now let's see some action.

WORKING WITH ASIA DURING YEAR OF THE DOG

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, this week commences the Lunar New Year, a time of thankfulness and new beginnings for the United States and many of our Asian partners.

Reflecting upon last year's Year of the Rooster, we have enjoyed tremendous political, social, and economic achievements. Filled with enthusiasm for diplomacy and cooperation, we continue to look to our partners in Asia to promote peaceful international relations.

During the Year of the Dog, I believe that our friends will continue to embody loyalty, honesty, and integrity, working with us to craft mutually beneficial international policies. In turn, the United States will encourage effective diplomatic behaviors among all of our Asian counterparts.

As lawmakers, we have an obligation to protect the interests of the United States, as well as those of our strong allies around the globe, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to work toward policies that will positively shape strong, multinational Asian foreign relations in 2018.

UNDERFUNDING NATIONAL PARKS

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, from the mighty redwoods to the headlands and beaches of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in my bay area, backyard to the ancient sequoias of Yosemite, to the scorching deserts of Death Valley, we know our national parks are worth protecting.

Parks not only protect nature and wildlife but our history, too. And they

are economic engines supporting thousands of jobs. But Donald Trump's dirty budget and infrastructure scam would bulldoze right through this American success story.

Trump is proposing a 7 percent cut to the National Park Service, meaning even less maintenance and visitor services, and a 17 percent cut to the Department of the Interior overall, while giving Secretary Ryan Zinke free rein to continue his drilling spree on our public lands.

These cuts, combined with Trump's ongoing effort to hike entry fees for working families, threaten access to these places that drive millions of visitors to our communities and small businesses each year, while generating hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity.

Underfunding our national parks puts visitor access at risk. We should reject this budget and work together.

ADA IMPROVEMENTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act has played an important role in improving accessibility for many years.

Unfortunately, it is often taken advantage of by dishonest attorneys who file drive-by lawsuits against small businesses in order to get a quick payday. This entails coercing a business owner into paying expensive settlements or legal fees for unintended or technical violations and vague interpretations of the ADA. This practice has risen dramatically. From just 2013 to 2017, ADA lawsuits in Federal courts have increased by 182 percent, and it goes beyond that for many years previously as well.

This practice violates the spirit of the law and hurts small businesses without really improving access. One example, a small business, a minimarket in my district, went through a renovation. They put in a nice ramp there on the front of their business, a concrete structure that had been inspected, and they were working with the county all along. Then, when they were done, someone came and said: This is 1 degree off on incline.

How is a small business supposed to deal with issues like that when the regulators themselves can't even keep track of what they are supposed to be doing? This only benefits corrupt attorneys. That is why I support the ADA Education and Reform Act which will end this shady practice and give property owners a reasonable chance to fix potential issues.

COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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