

wealthiest counties in the entire United States, it can be easy to think such issues do not concern us or that our community does not have those kinds of problems. We must not allow our economic success and prosperity to blind us to the very real fact that the benefits of a truly just and equal society are not fully enjoyed by all members of our community. The work to build a fair society goes on and I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the NAACP in that work.

As we commemorate and celebrate Black History Month, let us remain vigilant in our efforts and uncompromising in our belief that as Dr. King once said, "An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in continuing this march towards equality and justice. I congratulate the Fairfax County NAACP and the Tinner Hill Foundation on the occasion of their anniversaries and extend my deepest respect and appreciation for their efforts on behalf of all in our community.

HOW MANY MORE LIVES? GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to appeal to my colleagues once again to take a stand against gun violence in this country. We cannot continue to refuse to protect our children and our communities and seniors. It is time for the Members of this House to come together and simply do what is right.

I believe in the Constitution. I believe in the 2nd Amendment. I have taken an oath to protect and defend both. I believe Americans have a right to defend themselves.

But, the Constitution does not guarantee citizens the right to carry weapons of war. It doesn't guarantee any of us the right to have and use a magazine that will shoot 100 bullets in less than 30 seconds. Those who say the 2nd Amendment provides those guarantees are not only wrong, but they ignore the rights of our children and communities to be free of fear in school, at worship, at concerts and in restaurants.

The 2nd Amendment doesn't give anyone the right to make our children afraid to leave the house. I have the right to walk out of my house without fear that I might be shot. The 17 students, teachers and staff who lost their lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida had the right to go to school and work that fateful morning and not expect to be shot.

The parents and families of the 8 students and 2 teachers killed at Santa Fe High School had the right to expect their sons, daughters, and mothers to come home the night of May 18th. And, let me remind you of the Waffle House Shooting near Nashville last month, the Las Vegas shooting, Orlando Pulse Night Club shooting, and the Sutherland Springs church shooting, all within the last two years. We cannot keep offering people our thoughts and prayers without doing something. "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:17)

Let us show the White House, the National Rifle Association and anyone else who wants

to put guns before the safety of our people, especially our children, that we still have a backbone. Democrats and Republicans can still stand with the hundreds of thousands of students who took to the streets of America in March. They demanded accountability from legislators for the lives lost and gun reform policies to save lives in the future. Now let's stand for them.

This is not a mental health issue as the White House and NRA suggests. This is, without question, a safety issue. I stood before the House of Representatives in February of this year and I will repeat what I said then. Republicans cannot claim that mental illness is to blame, while simultaneously cutting funding for mental health treatment, undermining Americans' health insurance, and stripping schools of the resources needed to employ a guidance counselor, social worker or more teachers to reduce class sizes and give children more individual attention.

What will it take for us to get angry? How many more have to die before we act? Martin Luther King said, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal." Let us not turn our backs on our young people, families and communities across this nation looking to us to pass common sense legislation.

CONGRATULATING JOHN R. NIEMIEC ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend John Niemiec, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. A 32-year veteran of the Department, John retired in February 2018, having earned the rank of Captain II.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, John is an avid fan of all Pittsburgh professional sports teams, but perhaps none more so than his beloved Steelers. In fact, John's entire recreation room in his home is a shrine-like tribute to the Black and Gold. He often travels back to Pittsburgh so that he can watch his favorite team play, perhaps with an icy Iron City in one hand and a Terrible Towel in the other.

John relocated to Northern Virginia and joined the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in 1986 after working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. In addition to his service with the Department, John was also a dedicated member of the Fairfax County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics, Local 2068. He served for 17 years on the local Executive Board, including 4 years as Vice-President and over 10 years as President. John also served his fellow firefighters as a Pension Trustee for 12 years. During this time, he was also a member of the Executive Board of the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems.

I was proud to partner with John to ensure that our public safety personnel and first responders received the highest level of support possible from our county government during my time as a Member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. One of the projects of which I am proudest is the creation of the Public Safety Occupational Health

Center, which we dedicated at the Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters last month. John was instrumental in this project and was pivotal in its successful completion.

However, out of all the positions he has held, including Captain, President, and Trustee, the title that gives him the most joy is "Dad." As a single parent, John raised two wonderful daughters, and has taught them by example how to embrace the values of honesty, integrity, respect, and dedication to serving others. John truly represents these values, many of which are shared by his professional colleagues and make our Fairfax County first responders the standard against which all others are judged.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking my friend John Niemiec for his dedication and service to our community and in congratulating him on his retirement. While he may be retiring from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, he will continue to advocate on behalf of firefighters and paramedics in his new role of State Policy and Legislative Representative for the International Association of Firefighters. I am sure that he will bring the same passion and determination to this new position that he has brought to all of his previous endeavors. It has been my distinct honor and privilege to work with him throughout our shared career in public service, and I wish him all the best and continued success.

TRICKETT WENDLER, FRANK MONGIELLO, JORDAN MCLINN, AND MATTHEW BELLINA RIGHT TO TRY ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I once again rise in opposition to the Senate version of the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017.

The third time is not the charm. The House version of this bill was defeated when it was brought up under suspension and a week later it was forced through on a party line vote.

This bill is dangerous. It will put the most vulnerable patients' lives at risk by using products that have not been tested for efficacy. It also takes unprecedented steps to undermine the role of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the authorization of investigational use, or right-to-try drugs. It's worse than the House version and FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb expressed his concerns about this bill during a Health Subcommittee hearing in October, 2017.

This bill once again does not address the true barrier to investigational use drugs—the manufacturer. It does not compel manufacturers to provide investigational use products to patients or physicians. The manufacturer often is justified in not providing investigational use drugs to patients due to production and manufacturing limitations, or because the manufacturer determines that a patient is not an appropriate candidate for their drug. Nothing in this bill corrects the barriers of the current system or makes it more feasible for manufacturers to