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We have passed H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019, which would close the Charleston loophole.

We have passed a bill that gives the CDC and the NIH \$25 million to study gun violence, the first of its kind in over 20 years.

I have even introduced a bill that would give loved ones and law enforcement more tools to keep guns away from those who are a danger to themselves or to others; tools that may have helped Mary save her brother, Ben's life.

With every unnecessary shooting, we continue to feel the weight of this injustice; and I personally know that sense of injustice.

When my son, Jordan, was killed, I found myself asking America, how could you allow this to happen to my child, my family, to my Jordan? And after Parkland, I knew that this country needed to stand up and to do something about it.

I knew that I had something that I had to do, and I knew that I needed to stand up for families like mine in Marietta, Georgia, who are terrified that their children will not come home from school, and they are terrified of being me.

So I made a promise to my community that I would act. And I promised that I would take all the love and the support and protection that I had given to my child and use it to serve the American people. I promised I would always be a mother on a mission to save the lives of children from across America, children like my son.

During this Gun Violence Survivors Week, I pray that we all remember that this is in our hands. Families like Mary's, children graduating from high school, communities in Charleston, in Columbine, in Parkland, in Sandy Hook, in Dayton, in El Paso, in Las Vegas, in the hundreds of places where shooters and shootings don't even make the news. Their lives are in our hands.

I thank my colleagues, and survivors, and volunteers, and advocates across this country for their tireless work to protect our families.

May God bless us all in this fight to save American lives.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OFFICER ALAN MCCOLLUM

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and to mourn the loss of one of Corpus Christi Police Department's finest, Officer Alan McCollum, who was tragically killed in the line of duty.

President Ronald Reagan once said: "There can be no more noble vocation than the protection of one's fellow citizens."

Officer McCollum was a compassionate, devoted, and admired public servant who dutifully worked to keep south Texas safe.

Before serving as a police officer, Officer McCollum served 21 years in the U.S. Army, earning the Bronze Star and numerous other accolades. Following the Army, his service to others continued by joining the Corpus Christi Police Department in 2013, where he was a valued member of the Honor Guard and SWAT team.

Last year, he once again demonstrated his willingness to sacrifice his own safety for others by helping push an overturned car back on its wheels after it had caught fire, saving the life of the driver.

On Saturday, Officer McCollum paid the ultimate price, sacrificing himself, while upholding the rule of law.

Scripture tells us that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and those who are crushed in spirit. Right now, so many of us, in Texas, the Corpus Christi Police Department, and the family of Officer McCollum, are brokenhearted.

Our prayers are that his family and friends touched by this tragedy, and especially his wife of 12 years, Michelle, and his three daughters, Hannah, Carissa, and Liliana, would feel the Lord near them during this difficult time. I extend my deepest condolences to them during this extremely difficult time.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF OFFICER MICHAEL LOVE

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the opportunity to visit Corpus Christi Police Officer Michael Love in the hospital as he recovers from injuries he sustained in the line of duty.

Over the weekend, he was conducting a routine traffic stop when his patrol vehicle was struck, pinning him down.

I had heard from many of his fellow officers of his optimistic and indomitable spirit, which I had the opportunity to witness firsthand when I visited him and his wife, Lauren, in the hospital. He told me that, despite everything he is going through, even knowing the months of recovery that lie ahead, he would still sign up to serve our community as a Corpus Christi police officer.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for his sacrifice and his bravery.

We must continue to pray for the safety of all our first responders, and support them as they protect us, as well as their families, who they hug a little bit tighter every day as they face the dangers that lie ahead.

We are thankful for the loving, brave, and patriotic man that is Officer Michael Love, and for those who serve with him.

#### GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me say that my heart hurts for my colleague and my sister, LUCY MCBATH, as she confronts on a daily basis the pain of our failure to act on sensible gun safety legislation.

I rise today, as many of my colleagues will, almost one year since the House took the steps to curb violence by passing H.R. 8, a bill that has yet to receive any consideration in the Senate.

We are in the middle of Gun Violence Survivors Week. Yet, despite survivors' calls for action; despite the calls of parents and friends who have lost loved ones to guns; despite the calls from our young people who just want to be safe in school; and despite our calls of the communities who want to be safe in their homes, we have yet to get H.R. 8, or any other gun violence bill considered in the Senate.

The paralysis around preventing gun violence is disgusting, and it is deadly. This story line that preventing people from buying assault weapons or stockpiling ammunition is somehow infringing upon their rights is deeply hurtful, and it is wrong thinking.

Including suicides by guns, there were 177 deaths on New Year's Day alone. There were three mass shootings, and the lives lost included three children between the ages of 12 and 17. That's just one day, the first day of this year. Yet, Republicans in the Senate continue to refuse to move any bill that might keep more families from getting that phone call.

There are so many options available to us. There is the baseline, bipartisan bill, like, H.R. 8, that we have already passed in the House. There are bills that would go even further, like my own Handgun Licensing and Registration Act of 2019, and the Stop Online Ammunition Sales Act of 2019.

One would require registration for handgun purchases, just like the government requires registration and basic standards for voting, operating a vehicle, even opening a business. It would ensure accountability and allow enforcement to identify threats.

The other places a very basic principle into law; that you shouldn't be able to stockpile bullets without ID or without law enforcement being aware.

Mr. Speaker, there are bills that would keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals, and bills that would push us to study gun violence as the health crisis it is. So far, none of these seem to be good enough for most of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, or the other side of the Capitol.

We are approaching a point from which we cannot return, where failure to act will normalize gun violence in our schools, in our neighborhoods, and in our society.

The survivors that we honor today, the families of those we have lost, and the countless Americans who wonder if they might be next deserve so much more from us.

I stand here today representing all of the loss of the survivors and what they have experienced. But I stand here, representing the hope that my granddaughter, Kamryn Anne Marie Watson, is safe in her school, just like all of the other children should be. Nothing less is acceptable.

#### PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TORRES of California). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, the House will vote on the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019, or the PRO Act. This legislation is a liberal wish list that represents a draconian overhaul of our Nation's labor laws at the expense of employers, workers, and economic growth, while strengthening the authoritarian power of big labor.

Madam Speaker, despite the fact that the National Labor Relations Board and the U.S. Supreme Court have recognized that there should be ample time for "uninhibited, robust, and wide-open debate in labor disputes," the PRO Act deliberately speeds up election processes so that employees don't have time to learn about the potential downsides of joining a union.

Specifically, the bill codifies the provisions of an NLRB regulation called the "ambush election rule" which significantly shortens the time span in election processes. Democrats purposely inserted this provision because they know union bosses are more likely to win elections when employees are uninformed about the downsides of union membership.

Second, the PRO Act increases liability for businesses by dramatically expanding the definition of "joint employer" to also include indirect control and unexercised potential control over employees. These terms are incredibly broad and ambiguous, meaning businesses could find themselves held liable for labor violations committed by another business when they might not have even been aware that they were considered a joint employer in the first place.

Even worse, the risk of increased liability incentivizes large businesses to stop contracting out to small businesses. This would force large businesses to keep more jobs in-house which, ultimately, raises prices for both businesses and consumers.

The expanded definition of joint employer is also detrimental for franchise businesses. A recent study showed that the definition change has led to a 93 percent increase in lawsuits against franchise businesses, costing them over \$33 billion annually, and leading to the loss of 376,000 jobs.

The study also showed that the majority of franchise businesses have been offering less services just in order to avoid lawsuits. This chilling effect

hurts, again, both workers and consumers alike.

The PRO Act also compels private-sector employees to either join a union or risk being fired. The bill abolishes the State Right to Work Laws which allow workers the freedom to choose whether or not they want to pay fees to a union.

If Right to Work Laws are repealed, not only will unions gain unprecedented new power, but economic growth and employment will suffer. A 2018 study by the National Economic Research Associates found that between 2001 and 2016, States with Right to Work Laws saw private-sector employment grow by 27 percent; while States without Right to Work Laws grew only 15 percent.

To top it off, the PRO Act strips workers of their right to cast anonymous ballots in union elections. Under current law, workers are able to anonymously oppose joining a union by casting "secret" and unpublicized ballots. However, this PRO Act abolishes this practice and forces employees to make their choice public about unionizing, which makes it easier for unions to intimidate and threaten workers who do not wish to sign up.

Senior fellow at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Vincent Vernuccio, has said: "The secret ballot is a bedrock principle of democracy. It allows people to vote the way they feel without fear of reprisal. Without it, those who hold the elections would hold all the power."

This bill should be opposed by anyone who is concerned with worker freedom and continuing our country's economic boom. The PRO Act needs to be permanently benched.

□ 1030

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, today, I rise because it is National Gun Violence Survivors Week, a time when we focus on sharing and amplifying the stories of gun violence survivors who live with the impacts of gun violence every day.

I recall the morning of June 12, 2016, when my wife and I were awakened at 6 in the morning by a barrage of texts because the unthinkable happened to our happy little town of Orlando, Florida. Gun violence on a massive scale had reared its ugly head at a place where people just wanted to have a good time, at the Pulse nightclub.

We lost 49 Americans that day, 49 of my fellow Orlandoans who were just there to enjoy friendship and camaraderie. Their lives were taken way too early from us. But we also have to focus on the 53 who were wounded, the survivors of the Pulse nightclub tragedy. One of them is a coworker of mine, Ramses Tinoco.

Ramses is a paralegal who was good spirited, hard-working, and always excited about the job. Suddenly, for several weeks, he wasn't able to come back to work, or at least in a regular fashion. I remember talking to him about what it was like to be there. It was hard for him to talk about it, and I don't blame him because no one should have to see those types of horrors.

Another good friend of mine, Ricardo Negron-Almodovar, a lawyer in Puerto Rico who came to central Florida for a new start, and within less than a year of living in Orlando, he faced this vicious tragedy. But he has been fighting back. He is now on the Pulse national memorial advisory committee. We have a bipartisan bill going through the House that would make it a national memorial to remember those 49 we lost and those 53 wounded survivors.

But I also want to talk about the folks who take care of the survivors.

Terry DeCarlo, who is pictured here on the far right, was retiring the Monday after the Pulse nightclub shooting from the LGBT+ Center in Orlando. Terry couldn't retire when his community needed him most, so he stayed on for a year, bringing in supplies, helping with mental health, helping the families coming from around the country to help their loved ones who were still surviving.

During that time, all Terry thought about was others. It was only a few months after he retired a year-plus later that he found out that he had advanced stages of cancer that was teeming through his jaw. One can only wonder whether, if he wasn't so busy, he might have gotten treatment or had noticed beforehand. But that wasn't Terry.

Terry cared about others. Terry lived to serve, and we just lost him last month. It is a sad tragedy, but Terry's legacy will be remembered.

We also have to honor with action, with real solutions. The shooter in this instance had a SIG Sauer MCX semi-automatic rifle, a weapon of war made for battlefields, not for a suburban nightclub, one that could do unspeakable carnage even before police could get on the scene.

There are things that are even more common ground than assault weapons bans. Our House passed a bipartisan universal background checks bill to make sure that, simply, those who aren't supposed to have guns don't get them. With giant loopholes for gun shows and private sales, this just doesn't make sense. It is time to pass it.

Also, the Charleston loophole, where we saw someone put a false address, and when the background check didn't come back, he automatically got his guns and shot up a church in Charleston.

It is time for action.