

the Husker football team and Creighton basketball team.

No one deserves this kind of senseless violence, and the thoughts and prayers of all Nebraskans go out to Seth's family.

CONGRESS HAS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, when we were elected to serve, we were charged with a responsibility, the responsibility to give our constituents a voice in Washington. They are crying out for action on the public health emergencies that are plaguing our country.

And if we do not act, why are we here?

We need to vote on legislation that makes an impact on the epidemic of gun violence in our country. The American people are demanding a vote, and we have a moral obligation to take action. For each of us, it is personal. In every community in this country, the effects of gun violence have left scars that will never heal.

Congress also needs to act immediately on Zika. We must fund the President's request that was made 5 months ago. We must not put American women in the predicament of choosing whether or not they should get pregnant or, if they are already pregnant, wondering whether or not their baby is okay.

We are also facing a nationwide opioid epidemic that is sounding alarms that we must heed. We are all seeing this in our districts.

And the lead poisoning of thousands of children in Flint, Michigan, and across our country has not disappeared. Over 500,000 children every day are affected by lead poisoning.

We were elected to vote on issues working families care about. The Republican majority left town, abdicating its responsibility and leaving the American people at risk.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days. That is 52 days that we won't be taking action to address public health crises like Zika and the Flint water crisis. Time and time again, House Republicans have blocked meaningful emergency funding needed to protect the health and safety of American families.

And even as Americans continue to lose their lives every day, House Republicans still have not answered our call for a vote on bipartisan gun violence prevention legislation. We have a responsibility to protect the safety of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we answer the call of communities across this country who are demanding action on commonsense solutions like strengthening our background check system and ensuring we keep guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists.

Families are counting on us. Let's do our job.

CONGRESS HAS COMPELLING UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last month I sat with parents who lost children to gun violence. There was such sorrow in the room.

"When I lost my son, I lost myself," one mother said.

Another said: "Until we get these guns off the streets, the cycle is going to continue."

As I listened to their stories, I heard again the tragic ways that gun violence so abruptly takes lives and devastates families and communities every single day, and I took to heart their message that too many weapons are too easily available.

Preventing weapons from getting into the hands of terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill is common sense and essential to our security, and there are bipartisan bills in Congress right now that would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be leaving town with such compelling unfinished business. We should be voting on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

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ZIKA VIRUS

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Zika virus—there is no vaccine, and there is no treatment. It kills the weak and the frail. The fancy term is it is also teratogenic. It disrupts regular embryonic development—teratogenic. It has infected 1,000 Americans—200 pregnant women. It is spread by mosquitos that are just emerging from their winter dormancy.

What are we doing about it? We are going home for 7 weeks.

As this body has descended further and further into dysfunction, I have heard a lot of rationalizations: "Congress just waits until the last minute"; "they have to see real consequences before they take action"; "let the body work through regular order."

I reject them all. For the second time in 3 years, this body has had and faced a devastating, urgent public health crisis.

What has been our response? Missing in action.

We acted too late with Ebola, and now, with Zika, we are not acting at all. Democracy can't work if we don't work.

I don't yield back, Mr. Speaker. I don't yield now. I don't yield in September. I don't yield in November, and I don't yield in December until we do our work.

Come back. Fight this disease.

SALVADOR ESPARZA AND WORK LEFT UNDONE

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, at just 4 years old, Salvador Esparza already had a reputation for lighting up a room whenever he walked in. His aunt called him "a sweet boy with a passion for soccer and Spiderman."

But now pictures and memories are all that remain. Last week, Salvador was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting on his own front porch in my California district. Like him, 91 people are killed by guns each day.

But people like Salvador deserve to be more than a statistic. That is why I joined 350 people in front of Pasadena City Hall last week at a vigil to call for an end to gun violence. They are hurting.

Now is the time for Congress to take action to save lives. But, instead, Republicans decided to end session early and push lifesaving work on guns, Zika, and the Flint water crisis aside.

The American people elected us to do our job. They deserve better.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE CUT AND RUN ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, here we are, House Democrats, right here in the House, ready to work. Where are House Republicans? Well, they have escaped for 52 days without taking care of the Nation's business.

That's right, escaped—you know, left, fled, absconded, disappeared, departed, dodged, bolted, bailed, ducked out, burst out, shipped out, made off, cut and run. That is what House Republicans have done.

But here is what is left undone: the opportunity to protect our children and families from the spread of the Zika virus, from a concern to a public health crisis; the opportunity to provide clean drinking water for over 9,000 children in Flint, Michigan, poisoned with lead.

This is serious. In fact, it is sobering. In the next 52 days that the House Republicans have escaped, 4,732 American men, women, and children will lose their lives to gun violence, including 67 who will be killed with a gun as a result of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker,