

Velázquez	Waters	Womack
Visclosky	Watt	Woodall
Walberg	Waxman	Woolsey
Walden	Webster	Yarmuth
Walz (MN)	Wilson (SC)	Yoder
Wasserman	Wittman	Young (AK)
Schultz	Wolf	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—125

Ackerman	Gonzalez	Owens
Akin	Goodlatte	Pastor (AZ)
Austria	Gowdy	Pelosi
Baca	Granger	Pence
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Renacci
Bartlett	Grijalva	Reyes
Barton (TX)	Guinta	Richmond
Bass (NH)	Gutierrez	Rivera
Berman	Hanabusa	Rohrabacher
Bishop (NY)	Hanna	Rokita
Boswell	Harris	Ross (AR)
Brady (PA)	Hartzler	Rothman (NJ)
Brady (TX)	Heinrich	Ruppersberger
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Rush
Burgess	Higgins	Sánchez, Linda
Burton (IN)	Hinchev	T.
Butterfield	Hirono	Sanchez, Loretta
Campbell	Holden	Schilling
Capps	Holt	Schock
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Scott (SC)
Carnahan	(TX)	Shimkus
Clyburn	Johnson (IL)	Shuler
Coble	Johnson, Sam	Simpson
Cohen	Jones	Slaughter
Costa	Kind	Smith (NJ)
Costello	Kissell	Smith (WA)
Cravaack	Landry	Speier
Crenshaw	Langevin	Stark
Critz	Lipinski	Stivers
Culberson	Lujan	Sullivan
Davis (IL)	Lynch	Sutton
Dicks	Manzullo	Terry
Dingell	Marchant	Tiberi
Fincher	Markey	Towns
Flake	McCarthy (NY)	Walsh (IL)
Fleming	McIntyre	Welch
Forbes	Meeks	West
Fortenberry	Moore	Westmoreland
Franks (AZ)	Moran	Whitfield
Gallegly	Neal	Wilson (FL)
Gerlach	Nunes	Young (FL)
Gibson	Nunnelee	
Gohmert	Olver	

□ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 627 and 628. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote Nos. 627 and 628.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THIS TRAGEDY

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Education and the Workforce be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 833 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas on December 14, 2012 a mass shooting took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut;

Whereas the people of the United States mourn the 26 innocent lives, including those of 20 children, that have been lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School in this unimaginable tragedy;

Whereas the people of the United States will always remember the victims of the previous mass shootings that have occurred in the United States and stand in solidarity with the survivors; and

Whereas the quick action of law enforcement officials and other first responders prevented additional losses of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the senseless attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut on Friday, December 14, 2012;

(2) offers condolences to all of the students, teachers, administrators, and faculty of Sandy Hook Elementary School, as well as their families, and recognizes that the healing process will be long and difficult for the entire Newtown community;

(3) honors the selfless, dedicated service of—

(A) the teachers, school administrators, school support staff, medical professionals, and others in the Greater Newtown community;

(B) the emergency response teams and law enforcement officials who responded to the attack; and

(C) law enforcement officials who continue to investigate the attack; and

(4) remains committed to working together to help prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself a moment to briefly offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of Newtown, Connecticut. What happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School last Friday is simply unspeakable, and we as a Nation are devastated by the loss of so many innocent lives. In the face of such tragedy, it is our duty to join together and honor the memory of the victims. Let us stand united in offering our prayers to their families and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I yield my time to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the chairman very much for his kind words and for his generosity in allowing us to have this time on the floor this evening to both remember the 26 individuals who were brutally murdered on Friday morning in the village of Sandy Hook in the town of Newtown, Connecticut, but also to start to paint a pathway forward. Right now, Newtown, Connecticut, is grieving deeply. It’s going to be grieving for a long time because, frankly, we are just in the process of figuring out what to think about this, never mind understanding how to recover. This morning, at the first of what will be far too many funerals, you could start to see through the darkness a glimmer of how we figure a way out of this.

Little Noah Pozner was buried this morning by his parents and by his family. Noah was an amazing little 6-year-old. Not unlike most other precocious 6-year-olds, he loved role-playing; he was mischievous; he was as smart as a whip. He always talked about what he wanted to do in life, what he wanted to be. One day, he’d say he wanted to be a doctor. On another day, he’d say he wanted to be a police officer. On most days, his mom said he wanted to be a taco store owner. He loved tacos. That was his dream in life.

What we’ve seen on TV and in newspapers are these faces, the beautiful, gleaming, pure faces of these 20 first graders who perished; and while all of our hearts are just sick with grief, we know that their purity and their love is going to be the inspiration for the little community of Newtown and, frankly, for this whole country and this whole world to figure out how to recover.

I’ve been there on the ground since Friday afternoon almost nonstop, and Newtown is asking itself lots of questions about why it happened to us. What could we have done? Why did this guy do it? As I just said on the House floor, those questions are going to stick around for a while; but what you see in Newtown today is just this overabundant love. I mean, within hours, the fire station was filled with counselors, filled with public safety personnel, filled with food, filled with everything that could possibly support these families. Those offers of help and those offers of support have just kept on coming and kept on coming.

What has also emerged are the stories of what happened that day. Certainly, the tragedy and the horror is first and foremost; but underneath that is heroism, only the beginnings of which we know right now. This is a great school, first of all. This was the best school in Newtown, one of the best in the entire State, and it’s because of a principal named Dawn Hochsprung.

Dawn was a great principal right to the end. She was in a meeting when it happened. She told the people in the meeting to run the other way so that she could run directly to the shooter to try to disarm him. A young teacher, Victoria Soto, had the soundness of

mind to tell her kids to hide in the closet. She told the shooter that the students were in the gymnasium, somewhere else in the building.

□ 1920

She didn't survive, but many of her students did because of what she did.

When you start to hear more snippets of teachers who got their colleagues out the window, of kindergarten teachers who huddled their kids, kept them quiet, hummed to them, read them quiet stories so they wouldn't be overheard, you start to know what kind of community Newtown is, and you start to understand how Newtown survives.

I feel like I've done a lot of talking the last 4 days, both publicly and to families and to community members, and so I want to make sure that this is an hour where those who have been grieving all across the country can come and share their thoughts as well.

We've offered a resolution tonight which expresses both our outrage at what happened that day, but also our great sympathy. It does help to know that people from all around the country, from every congressional district and from every country around the world are grieving with us. Only bits and pieces of that seeps through that wall of misery that surrounds Newtown now; but when it does pierce that veil, it helps.

We're going to have a lot of time over the next few days and weeks to talk about what we do next, and I'm sure we'll have some of that discussion tonight. I'll join that conversation when it's right, and I don't begrudge anybody that has it today. It's important to talk about how we move forward and how we make sure this never ever happens again. For those of us in Newtown, we remember those 20 kids and those six adults—Charlotte Bacon, Daniel Barden, Rachel D'Avino, Olivia Rose Engel, Josephine Gay, Dawn Hochsprung, Dylan Hockley, Madeleine Hsu, Catherine Hubbard, Chase Kowalski, Jesse Lewis, Ana Grace Marquez-Greene, James Mattioli, Grace McDonnell, Anne Marie Murphy, Emilie Parker, Jack Pinto, Noah Pozner, Caroline Previdi, Jessica Rekos, Avielle Richman, Lauren Rousseau, Mary Sherlach, Victoria Soto, Benjamin Wheeler, and Allison Wyatt.

I'm going to remember those people for a long time in Newtown. I'm going to grieve with them and their families. We're also going to take their memories, the beauty of those kids, the heroism of those adults, and let it point us, let it point the strong, close-knit community of Newtown, Connecticut, let it point us to a way we can survive.

With that, I'd like to yield 5 minutes to my friend from the Third Congressional District of Connecticut, ROSA DELAURO.

Ms. DELAURO. I thank the gentleman, and I thank him for the depth of his feeling and the work he has done over the last several days, to help to bring some solace and peace to families

who have been so struck by the devastation in Newtown, Connecticut.

I strongly support this resolution and condemn, as my colleagues do, the vicious attack at the Sandy Hook Elementary School and commemorate our children and the teachers who were struck down in this terrible tragedy.

It is overwhelming. I think all of us at the memorial service last night were overwhelmed. It was a slaughter of the innocent. Every parent and grandparent sees in the eyes and the smiles and the looks on those children's faces who we lost their own children and their grandchildren, knowing that there for the grace of God go I.

What happened in Newtown is unthinkable. A normal Friday morning in the midst of a holiday season, Sandy Hook Elementary School, a place where children should be safe to learn, to grow, suddenly without warning became a place of senseless violence. Within minutes, the actions of a young and mentally ill man devastated a small town community, broke the hearts of millions across the country, and murdered six teachers and administrators and 20 innocent children, all of them between 6 and 7 years old.

They're that big. They are that big.

Such an unspeakable crime seems impossible to make sense of. How could this young man kill so many innocent? How could so many beautiful little angels with their whole lives ahead of them be taken from their families? They were just babies. They were just babies. It's hard to witness such a senseless and evil act and similar acts that some of my colleagues in this Chamber have faced. In Aurora and Portland, Oakland, Tucson, Blacksburg, Littleton, you can't help but feel a despairing of the soul.

We in this institution cannot afford that luxury. We need to be strong for the families of the fallen in Newtown and for the families of children all over America. To the Newtown community and to all of the Connecticut families and parents and siblings who have been touched by what happened on Friday, our thoughts and our prayers are with you. What you are going through is indescribable. We can be sympathetic. We can be empathetic. We do not know that sense of despair that you feel, but you must know that our Nation shares and mourns your loss. mourns your loss.

I, too, as did my colleague, CHRIS MURPHY, acknowledge the tremendous heroism of the adults who were killed on Friday. Individuals like Principal Dawn Hochsprung who ran at the assassin, told people to run away from him in order to protect her kids and the school. The schoolteacher Vicki Soto of Stratford, Connecticut, and I represent Stratford, Connecticut, who in the heat of a terrible moment gave her life to protect her students. She hid them. She hid them, and lost her life in doing so.

They all died in the line of duty. They are heroes and heroines. They

gave their lives to protect those children that they deal with every day, that they educate, that they care for, and that they love as if they were their own.

To the first responders who put their lives on the line to stop the senseless killing in Sandy Hook, we say thank you for your courage and for preventing more young lives from being lost, for they too ran into a building not knowing what they were going to face.

Moving forward, we in this institution have to take commonsense, constructive steps that will help to ensure these types of tragedies will not happen again; and they include ensuring better access to quality mental health care, strengthening programs so communities will have the necessary mental health resources.

We've heard so much in the last several days about how we need to secure the physical plant of the school; and, yes, we need to do that. They need to be secure, but we cannot turn them into prisons for these young people. I wish and hope that at the same time we're talking about those kinds of efforts, that we talk about putting a mental health professional in our schools. That is security, as well as stationing police cruisers in front of our schools.

It means doing everything in our power to prevent guns from falling into the hands of violent criminals, and giving law enforcement officials the tools they need.

□ 1930

The President said last night that caring for our children must be our first task, and we can no longer tolerate these tragedies, and we must change. He asked if we are doing what we can to protect our children, and he said that answer must be no, and we need to protect them.

At a more fundamental level, we cannot let this terrible tragedy harden our hearts against our fellow men and women. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King:

Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that.

So let us honor the fallen in Newtown by doing everything that we can to prevent these tragedies in the future. Let us follow the example of those heroes and innocents who perished. Let's commit to one another to rekindling our faith and love, compassion and community. Let's hold our children and our grandchildren close. Love them and tell them that you love them as many times as you are able.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 833.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. At this time I would yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Thank you, CHRIS MURPHY.

We just came from a vigil over on the Senate side that Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and former Senator Dodd were at, and all of us had the opportunity to be there.

JOE COURTNEY, when he spoke, spoke of our colleague CHRIS MURPHY and the incredible job that he's done for his district and for our State. When you hear him speak on the floor about quintessential New England and the community he represented for 6 years in Newtown and the little village of Sandy Hook, you understand that this is a man who truly represents the people of his district and this great State.

All of us have been shocked by the events that have transpired. Many things will be said. DICK BLUMENTHAL, ELIZABETH ESTY, who's the Representative-elect, have been there for the last 4 days. The whole world has looked in on this horrific event. And parents all across this country and all across the world understood implicitly what we all fear—the unspeakable: the parent describing a trip in an automobile from Bridgeport to Newtown, racing to get there to see whether their child was alive, had survived, and the joy when they were able to see their kids; and the complete and utter despair when your child was not one of the kids who came out. And CHRIS MURPHY and DICK BLUMENTHAL and ELIZABETH ESTY, our colleagues, were there.

These first responders who came on the scene and prevented the loss of more lives deserve our unending thanks. The great coordination by our State police and local police, everything that transpired, all the volunteers that participated; the teachers, the professionalism that they exhibited, the execution of a drill that they had been through time and again; and, as Rosa talked about, the principal and the teacher who sheltered her children and gave her own life. These are difficult things.

As Chris has so eloquently said, we're seeking answers and know that we must move on. And where do you find the strength? We found the strength in a great leader, in a Governor, Dan Malloy, who's been there all 4 days and beyond.

At the vigil last evening where the President spoke in an ecumenical gathering, he said:

As winter approaches and snow begins to fall, I will always think of these children as precious snowflakes during this winter of events. But I am heartened by the fact that every spring when the flowers bloom, we will think of their precious memory as well.

Our President said that the people of Newtown were inspirational. Indeed, they are.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Clio, the muse of history, used to sit above this Chamber. The muse of history's responsibility was to sit there, as you'll see the statue in Statuary Hall, with a book and pen, recording the events of this Chamber. We are in a unique position of responsibility. We have been sent here to perform a duty; and not only the muse of history, but all the world is watching the United States Congress.

We have a responsibility to respond in the most comprehensive way. This is an attack of terrorism. This has happened all too often and all too frequently all across this country. And in such an attack, we would do everything within our power to make sure that no stone was left unturned, to make sure that we provided every answer and every opportunity that we can, as Rosa said, to protect our children. That's why we take an oath of office here. That is our God-given responsibility. We must act, and act now.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. At this point, I would yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, again I want to just begin by saluting my colleague from Connecticut, CHRIS MURPHY, who over the last 72 hours has been the voice of the community of western Connecticut, and Newtown in particular. He has handled his role in that capacity with poise and good decorum and taste. It really is something that I think we should all, in this Chamber, be so proud of.

I would also want to mention that he did it as a father of someone who has a 4-year-old son, Owen, who I'm sure was seeing all around him the events that were unfolding, the unspeakable horror again in the eyes of a parent of a child really of the same age group. Again, we are just so lucky to have had his amazing leadership over the last 3 or 4 days.

The President last night opened his remarks about how the town of Newtown is really like many communities in America. To a point, it's true. It's 29,000, tight-knit, a very small town. But it is a town that, frankly, is above average in many instances.

□ 1940

It is a school system that scores at the absolute top of the Mastery Test in the State of Connecticut. And that doesn't happen by accident. It's because it has parents and staff that, year in and year out, have been so committed to making sure the children succeed and excel, and it has been a model for the State of Connecticut and for our country when education really still is, I think, probably one of the most important challenges that we need to succeed in as a country.

For this event to happen at Sandy Hook Elementary School, a school that, when I was sitting with the Board

of Education last night during the interfaith vigil, all of them were talking about their kids who'd gone through Sandy Hook and now were successfully pursuing careers in New York and the west coast and in Connecticut, it really just tore the heart out of this community. It's a community where they've had one act of homicide over the last 10 years. And to see those police officers come down the aisle after having to respond to this unspeakable horror and to see the looks on their face and the emotional drain that took place, it really was just something that was just so out of any norm for any community, but certainly, in particular, for the town of Newtown.

As Chris said, in every instance, whether it was the principal, the teachers, the parents, the first responders, the caregivers, they rose to the challenge. They did their job.

Victoria Soto, the teacher who shielded and literally saved the lives of at least half a dozen students, was in the middle of a lesson when this person burst into her classroom, 10 minutes from beginning to end. Since this debate has started, the event had already reached its conclusion, just in the time that we've been here on the floor. For her to think so quickly and to react so courageously is an act of human excellence that I think all of us will wonder whether or not we ourselves could have possibly done the same.

Her example, the example of the police and the EMS, the example of the doctors and nurses who responded so quickly, frankly, I see that as a challenge to this Congress. They acted. They did what they were supposed to do. And as the President said last night, if you believe that the measure of a society is how we protect our children, if you're honest, you have to answer that we really are not doing all that we can do, and, frankly, it is time for us to follow the example of the Victoria Sotos and to act. This resolution tonight is so important to begin that first step. But the fact of the matter is that there is much more that needs to be done.

This morning, as I was driving to the airport on the back roads of Connecticut, I went by a number of elementary schools. At every single one of them, there was a police cruiser at the entrance. Again, the State police and the local police departments, I think, were being very thoughtful. They wanted to make sure that when the parents and kids were going to school, they felt safe, and that after all they had seen on the TV over the weekend, it was okay to go in the entrance of their schools. But that is not an answer. To say that we are going to turn our schools into fortresses is not where we should be as a Nation. We need to go deeper in terms of solving this problem of mass killings and of violence that now, again, is striking at the most innocent in our society.

I look forward to working with the gentleman from the Fifth District over

the next few days, and when he takes his new duties as the new Senator from the State of Connecticut, to make sure that the people in that room last night who were listening to the President, the people in our State, the people in our country, the people in the world that are now watching us, that we make sure that we deliver, just like the brave people of the town of Newtown did over this past weekend.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. I'd like to begin by thanking my friend and colleague from Connecticut, Congressman MURPHY, not just for introducing this legislation, but for his strength of spirit as he has comforted some people who have lived through something that none of us would ever want to live through.

As Congressman MURPHY noted, Noah Pozner, a 6-year-old boy, was buried today, as was Jack Pinto, another 6-year-old boy. I looked at the photographs of the parents at those funerals and tried to imagine the bottomless grief, the anger, the questions they must have. Of course, that's impossible. At the very front of those questions is the question of, "Why?" That is something that we'll all struggle with individually, reverting probably only imperfectly onto the tenets of our faith as we consider how this supposedly benevolent God could allow this sort of slaughter of innocents to happen. We won't answer that question.

Last night, with the President and my family, by which I mean my colleagues from Connecticut, as we listened to the President and listened to the sighs and the gasps of the families in the community of Newtown, it's clear there's no answer to that question of "Why?" A line of poetry kept running through my head. Thomas Hardy, in one of his poems, asked:

How arrives it joy lies slain, And why unblooms the best hope ever sown?

We won't answer that question, but that question and its unanswerability will transform itself into a burden that we all will and must bear. By "we all," I mean every citizen of this country, but particularly those of us who are entrusted by our constituents with one thing, which is to make sure that this does not happen again. And I don't think there's any risk at all that we can't do that.

In a country awash in guns—and not just guns for the hunter or the person who wishes to protect him- or herself, but guns that were designed with the explicit purpose of killing as many people as rapidly as possible; not in a country that has raised violence to a secular religion, to a pastime, to a hobby, to a solution to our problems; and not in a country that seems to have forgotten that it's not just our close families, it's not just the small Connecticut delegation that is a family, but that we are a national family and that we have obligations of respon-

sibility one to each other—there's a clear answer to that ancient biblical question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" And that answer is, "Yes."

So I don't think there's any risk that we can't act, but I think that there is a profound risk that, just as after Aurora, just as after Oregon, just as after Columbine, we won't act. And that's not good enough.

I'll tell you how I'm going to challenge myself. I'm going to imagine Noah and Jack, 6-year-olds who nobody really knew. I didn't know them. Their parents didn't really know them—didn't know where they'd go to college, what they'd grow up to be, who they'd take to a prom. I'm going to imagine them standing right here—and that's not hard for me, with a 10-year-old and a 13-year-old at home—looking up and asking, "Will you do it?"

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. May I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 33 minutes remaining.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We've got a number of speakers, so we'll try to give 1½ minutes to as many as we can.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. "Not again." We all said it to ourselves in the split second we heard it on Friday, "Not again." Then, when we heard about the victims, we knew it was different. Twenty little children slaughtered in their classroom. In our sadness, we know our society bears responsibility because we have not done enough to protect our children.

□ 1950

We have not been able to get a grip on the increasing incidence of gun massacres, and because of that we have failed our children.

In the wake of Newtown, this country must really have a conversation about our views on violence, our views on guns, and how we're going to respond to people who are obviously mentally ill. Certainly through that conversation we can find consensus around reasonable solutions to keep these killing machines out of the hands of impaired individuals.

There's not one magic solution. It's not one thing. It's many things. It starts by us having inward conversations with ourselves and our families. It then starts by creating a more comprehensive and effective mental health system. Then we have to have a meaningful conversation about gun violence in our country. We are never going to be able to stop a deranged individual from going into a school or a movie theater or a shopping mall to shoot people; but if you limit the weapons and the ammunition available to them, you can give the people in their sights some fighting chance to stop that killer.

Of the 12 deadliest shooting massacres in history, six have occurred

since 2007. In 1999, in my second term of Congress, I dealt with the devastation of Columbine, which is now in my district. Just this summer, I stood here like the Connecticut Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I yield the gentlelady 30 additional seconds.

Ms. DEGETTE. I stood right here with my Representatives from Colorado, like the Connecticut delegation, and mourned our friends in Aurora. And now again we stand here.

We can start by passing a bill this week to ban high-capacity ammo clips, the same kind this killer used and the same kind the killer in Aurora used. My colleague and friend, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, and I have a bill to do just that, and we're going to urge the Republican leadership to do that this week. But after that, we have to have that conversation as parents, as neighbors, as friends, and the custodians of those 20 courageous little souls and the adults who tried to protect them.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. As a mother and grandmother, I offer my words to the mountains of condolences to the families of the 20 children and the six heroic adults in Newtown, Connecticut. All of America is mourning with you, but we owe you more than our grief and our condolences.

It is almost unthinkable that a school could be the scene of such horror. Parents across the Nation are worrying about how to keep their own children safe, and the terrible truth is that children in the United States are 13 times more likely to be killed by gun violence than children in other industrialized countries.

We need to close the gun show loophole and require criminal background checks for anyone purchasing a gun—a proposal supported by 74 percent of all NRA members and 96 percent of all Americans. We must outlaw assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips. These are weapons of mass destruction made for the military battlefields, not our neighborhoods.

It is time to grieve. It is time to act to end the gun violence before we lose more of our precious children and loved ones.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, at this point I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I want to thank my colleague. I know what you're going through. I know what your district is going through. And I want you to know that the people of the United States of America are saying their prayers for all of your constituents and certainly for the children.

I rise in support of H. Res. 833. As someone whose family has been a victim of gun violence, my heart goes out to the victims and the families of this

horrific tragedy. I know what it's like to lose someone you love, and I offer my deepest sympathies and our prayers for those who have been affected. To be very honest with you, I know that victims across this country that have been affected by gun violence, they are with you and they will be with you.

It breaks my heart to think of the holidays coming up, and Christmas, and the children not going to be there to open up their gifts, the parents going to their bedrooms and not seeing anybody there.

I know there are an awful lot of unanswered questions right now, and those answers will come soon. But I have to say, as some of my colleagues have said: Enough. Enough. More people have died in the last several years than the whole Vietnam war. More people are injured.

I will just say the first responders, the police officers, our prayers will be there. And I swear to God I will do everything in my power to make this a safer country for our children.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentlelady.

At this point I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. The Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was shattering for Americans everywhere. For such an unspeakable act of violence to take place at an elementary school—a place of safety, learning and lively spirit—was devastating. My own sons are grown, but my memories from their first days at school are still very vivid.

The shooting was both a deeply personal family tragedy and a tragedy for the community of Newtown and for our Nation. I, along with all American parents, feel the loss personally. It brought not only tears, but also deep sadness. The youngest victims were 6, 7. It's unacceptable.

We feel the loss of each child, so innocent, so joyful—their hopes, their dreams and their potential never to be fulfilled. We mourn the loss of the teachers and staff who were a comfort to their students and who did all that they could to protect them. My thoughts and my prayers are with each of the families and all of Newtown. did all that they could to protect them. My thoughts and my prayers are with each of the families and all of Newtown.

We have seen far too many moments of violence and loss. This loss is too devastating to ignore. I believe that even in this time of deep sadness and grief we must resolve to end such violence. We must do better to understand and treat mental illness. And we must come together to move our Nation towards commonsense, reasonable gun laws, laws that recognize the responsibility of gun ownership and ensure safety and security in our homes and our schools and our communities and in our public spaces.

One of the Nation's greatest strengths that we have as Americans and as a people is that our Nation and

each of us is so resilient. We must use that resilience to not only grieve together at this really difficult time, but to work together to prevent yet another devastating act of violence and to be shattered once again.

We should act, and I join my colleagues in a willingness and a commitment to do so.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for your leadership, and I share in your absolute sorrow, and to honor the memory of the 20 children and six educators who lost their lives in this really horrific attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families and our first responders, and all of those both in Newtown and across this country who were affected by this tragedy.

First, as a mother, my heart truly aches for the parents who lost their children. Young and old lost their future. But as a Member of Congress, I also know that we're not doing nearly enough to protect our children and to protect our communities from gun violence. In cities and rural areas, schools, offices and homes, this has happened far too many times in far too many communities all across our country.

In my district alone there have been over 160 incidences of gun violence this year. Forty-six people in my district have lost their lives to gun violence this year. I think about 6-year-old Amari Perkins, who lost his life to gun violence just miles from the Nation's Capitol, and 17-year-old Amber Stanley, who lost her life to gun violence.

This is a really complex problem that requires complex policy solutions, but the complexity should not keep us from doing what it is that we need to do to protect our children, whether those children are in Newtown or any town across this country. The question I think we have to ask ourselves, Mr. Speaker, is how many more tragic and senseless acts of violence have to take place before Congress is compelled to take truly meaningful action?

□ 2000

We must do all we can by working together to ensure people are safe in their schools, that our children are safe, that our educators are safe and our neighborhoods, our public spaces and our houses of worship all throughout our communities.

To my colleagues of the Connecticut delegation and especially to Mr. MURPHY who represents Newtown, my thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this really difficult and incomprehensible time. But be assured that as a Member of Congress, I'm going to work with you, I'm going to continue to pray with you, and I'm going to make certain that this doesn't happen again because we have an obligation, we know what our to-do list is,

and we have only to do it before year's end.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I thank him for doing this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to Newtown, Connecticut, since I have cousins who live there. It's less than an hour's drive from my congressional district.

Today, we mourn all the people who lost their lives in Newtown on Friday, including 20 elementary school children and six educators.

Over the past few years, we've seen innocent lives tragically lost to gun violence in a supermarket parking lot in Arizona, a shopping mall in Oregon, a movie theater in Colorado, an Army base in Texas, a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, a college campus in Virginia, and now an elementary school in Connecticut. The proliferation of combat-style weapons has spawned these tragedies, and it is long past time that we control them.

The Second Amendment guarantees a right to bear arms, but it does not guarantee an absolute right to military-style, high-caliber, semi-automatic, bulletproof-vest-piercing combat assault rifles with high-capacity magazines to anybody who wants them.

It just does not. And we must not let interest groups persuade us otherwise. We need sensible restrictions. We need sensible gun control legislation. We need them here, and we need them now. Our children are counting on us, and we really need to not let them down.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. At this point, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. I thank my colleague, Congressman and Senator-elect from the State of Connecticut, CHRIS MURPHY.

There have been many magnificent and heart-rending tributes being paid this evening, and how appropriate it is that they are. On behalf of my constituents in the 14th Congressional District in California, I hope that our words and our prayers and also our future actions will be a source of comfort to the parents of the victims and to the community of Newtown, Connecticut.

It is appropriate that we offer our prayers and our sympathy, but that's not enough. That is not enough. It is in this Chamber and in this Congress we're together. We can, indeed, make the changes that the American people, in their anguish, are looking for.

I can't help but think of the words of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address when he said:

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to their great unfinished work.

And so the massacre of these angels should really inspire us to take on the

job of what really needs to be done in our country. Will we be able to resolve every last problem that this violence has brought about in our country? I doubt that. Can we take great steps to avoid what we know has taken place in public places, in shopping malls, in theaters, on college campuses, and now for where the little angels go to school?

I pledge not only to my constituents but to the Connecticut delegation and to the people of our country that I will do everything possible to help resolve this. We know that they are living in the sight of Almighty God, but our work is truly our own, and it will be the hand of God that will guide us. I believe that.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentlewoman.

At this time, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. This Friday, an unimaginable horror happened. The most innocent amongst us, 20 beautiful children, ages 6 and 7, were gunned down in cold blood, and six adults died trying to save these children's lives. My heart breaks for these families, and I send my deepest sympathies to the Newtown community and to all who are struggling through this unthinkable tragedy.

Sandy Hook made clear what we've known for too long: that we are not doing enough to protect the public from deadly weapons, that we are not doing enough to address mental health issues in our society, and that we are not doing enough to stand up to those who are actually saying that more guns, not less, are the solutions to mass shootings.

This must change. For the sake of our children, I say enough is enough. Congress must act to put a stop to this senseless gun violence.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentlewoman.

At this point, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to the innocent victims who were tragically struck down in Newtown, Connecticut, and to condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless act of violence that claimed their lives.

That so many victims were young children who had their entire lives ahead of them makes the shooting even more heart-wrenching. The children were so young. We saw in each of them our own children, our grandchildren. They really are America's children.

Jack Pinto, 6 years old, the same age as my grandson, Robbie. He was a huge New York Giants fan and today was buried in a Giants jersey. And Noah Pozner, who is also 6, whose best friend was his twin sister, Arielle, who was in another class and survived, though I'm sure she felt she lost her other self.

These children were truly innocent, mostly knowing in their short lives just joy and little about the brutality

in this world until they experienced it firsthand on Friday.

What gives us hope is that there was also love and bravery in the actions of the adults, the educators and first responders who acted selflessly and heroically. We will forever remember all of them and pledge that their purity and spirit will be our guiding light to act to protect our children and our community.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentlewoman.

At this time, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank my friend from Connecticut.

I rise tonight to join all Americans in grieving for the innocent children and brave adults horrifically slaughtered at Sandy Hook Elementary School last Friday. What happened in Newtown, Connecticut, is every parent's worst nightmare. Every parent who sends a child off to school each morning takes a leap of faith that he or she will be home that night for a hug, a family dinner, and for a kiss goodnight.

For my wife and me, our three children are the center of our lives. Words cannot express the sorrow that we feel—that all Americans feel—for the families whose children were so viciously taken away.

Tonight, the American people are united in grief. In the coming days, a national conversation will take place on how to make our Nation just a little bit safer, and we must remain united. Never mind that some will feel threatened by this conversation and others will try to stop it altogether.

This unspeakable crime was driven by unspeakable evil. Yet when it comes to preventing such heinous acts, nothing should stop us from speaking out; but more than that, nothing should stop us from taking action. By preventing another massacre, by stopping this rampaging gun violence, we will honor the memory of every 6- and 7-year-old child and every brave member of the Sandy Hook community we mourn for this evening.

Please, please let us do more than talk. Please let us do more than give speeches. Let us come together to act to make America safer.

□ 2010

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman from Connecticut. And on behalf of all the residents of my home State of Rhode Island, I extend our profound sympathies to our neighbors in Newtown, Connecticut.

As we stand here this evening, mourning the innocent victims of this horrific massacre, our hearts ache for the parents and families who have endured an indescribable loss. We stand united as members of one community who share in the vital and solemn re-

sponsibility to protect our children, our families, and our neighborhoods.

As the men, women, and children of Newtown join together to comfort one another, to overcome the anguish and sorrow that has broken their hearts, they should know that an entire country is by their side, extending our prayers and love and are committed to action. The senseless cruelty and unspeakable violence that was inflicted upon the people of Newtown and took the lives of these precious angels have changed our Nation forever.

We honor the acts of bravery, we celebrate the lives, even those cruelly short, of those we lost; and we now must embrace our solemn duty and moral responsibility to take action in honor of the memory of the lost angels. They deserve nothing less.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CURSON).

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. Thank you, Congressman.

A few weeks ago, my grandson stood right here with me when I took my oath of office, one of the proudest moments of my life.

Just hours before this horrible act in Connecticut took place, Michigan's lame-duck legislators rewrote Michigan's gun laws to permit persons to bring concealed firearms into schools, college dorms, churches, hospitals, bars, and sports stadiums.

Firearms have absolutely no place in our schools. The tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary school is a chilling and heartbreaking reminder of this. Last week, innocent children, babies, went to school to a safe place where they love to be. Six public servants went to school to the children they love almost as much as their own. Those six heroically died trying to save those precious gifts from God. Twenty of those babies were savagely murdered.

We've witnessed this horrendous tragedy before. Thirty-two innocent people were shot to death at Virginia Tech; 16 were murdered at the University of Texas in Austin; 13 students and faculty were murdered at Columbine High School.

I support reasonable gun ownership, but this bill is unnecessary and goes way too far. Senate Bill 59 is now sitting on Governor Snyder's desk. In the spirit of this resolution, I ask the Governor on behalf of Peyton and Parker, my grandchildren, on behalf of all Michigan children, that he use his power of veto and not sign that bill.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman.

At this point, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen of the Congress, the Lord Jesus said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, for they are the kingdom of Heaven. But Jesus didn't stop there. He spoke, and then he acted.

He first rebuked his disciples, brought the children to him, picked each child up in his arms, put his hand on them, prayed with them, and then blessed them. And just as Jesus spoke and acted, the people of this country are expecting this Congress to speak, but to act. The first order of business is to make sure that this kind of tragedy never happens again. The first order of business is to ban, to make illegal to own, manufacture, sell, or possess this deadly weapon that was used to massacre these 20 children and these six educators, two 23 Bushmaster semi-automatic assault weapons. If we are going to honor those children who were massacred, we need to make sure that that weapon will never be used again.

If we do not do that, then this Congress needs to hang its head in shame.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD). The gentleman has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CLARKE).

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, of all the horror this country has had to endure, there's something else that is tragic, and that is too many times someone who is mentally ill can only get treatment once they're arrested and locked up. Treating the mentally ill only when they go to prison, it doesn't make sense. It costs too much money, and many times that treatment comes too late.

I'm asking this House and this Congress this week to protect all of the funding for mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment, protect all of the funds from across-the-board cuts that could occur as a result of the fiscal cliff. I also ask all of us as Americans to finally end the stigma of mental illness and substance abuse so that those who need treatment will no longer feel ashamed to seek it.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman.

At this point, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank my colleagues from Connecticut for the way in which they've conducted themselves through this horrific tragedy that the whole country has experienced.

Mr. Speaker, I came to sit and listen and to be here to support my colleagues, but I did want to say a few words because I had an opportunity to speak with the press in San Diego over the last few days.

I'm almost haunted by the question that I was asked, which was, Isn't this all just going to go away? People will get on with their lives, and a period of time will commence and maybe something else horrible will happen again.

What is it that we can do? I think it is a collective responsibility. It is cer-

tainly all of our responsibility. The President, I believe, has to take the lead, and he has begun to do that. We also have to reach out to our entire communities. I know that there are differences throughout this country. Of course there are. It's not even so much partisan differences. It's geographic in some cases. It's the way that people have chosen to live and their backgrounds and what they do.

But I think that we would be pretty surprised if we had the kinds of meetings throughout this country to allow that conversation to take place because parents throughout my district—and I know throughout the district of all of my colleagues—want to say something about how we can do better. I believe we can. If we can't, then what are we about?

I thank the President for his comments. I thank my colleagues, because I wonder could I have responded as well as they have done through this. And I certainly express my profound sorrow to the families who are enduring the absolute unthinkable. We are all parents and grandparents here, and we do identify, and we want to make a difference.

□ 2020

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. At this point, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank my wonderful colleague and dear friend for yielding to me, and I congratulate him on his election to the United States Senate and for responding so beautifully to his constituents and to all of us in response to the terrible tragedy that happened.

After the unfathomable tragedy, there is a growing determination and consensus that there has to be change. We also realize that if there is no change then we are destined to have yet another mass murder. This time, the mass murder was of children—elementary school children, in their school with their teachers—gunned down with an assault weapon. There are too many mass murders in this country. We have more guns per capita than any other country on Earth. If guns made people safer, this country would be very safe, but what we have are innocent people being killed with assault weapons.

Now, assault weapons are not used to kill animals, and they're not used in self-defense. These are weapons of war. When we return in January, Senator FEINSTEIN and our colleague CAROLYN MCCARTHY will be reintroducing the assault ban bill; but something we can do right now, before we leave this body, is to pass H.R. 308. We now have, roughly, 150 cosponsors. What this bill would do is ban massacre magazines. These are the large-capacity magazines that can have 100 rounds be limited to 10 rounds. They'd have to stop and reload. That's what saved people in the movie theater: He had to stop; it jammed. These magazines can gun down people, and we

need to limit them. That's something we can do right now in this Congress before we leave.

There are some who say that any limitation on guns—weapons of mass destruction—somehow limits their liberty, but they have to realize that their access to these weapons of mass destruction limits the liberty of other people. It means that we need to lock more doors, that we need metal detectors everywhere, that we need guards, that we need more protection even in movie theaters, even for children in school.

We need to bring change. This bill would bring change. This is something we can do right now to show America that we respect the Second Amendment. We're not infringing on law-abiding citizens to have their pistols. What we are saying is that these large-capacity magazines that are used in war cannot be used on our schoolchildren in elementary schools. Let's come together in a bipartisan way and pass this bill.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentlelady for those words.

I am so pleased to have joining us on the floor the Democratic leader. I yield the customary 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of his very important resolution—to condemn the acts of a lone gunman in Newtown, Connecticut, and to offer condolences to the families and members of the community.

I join him in the words of this resolution of saluting the courage of the teachers and administrators who gave their lives to save the children in their care and to thank the first responders who arrived on the scene to not only get survivors to safety but to end the succession of killings that were happening. Those first responders, Mr. Speaker, leave their homes every day knowing they're going to face danger, and they did that day as well; but in the face of it, they were heroic, as were the teachers and a counselor and the principal of the school.

This has all been made very clear to us by our colleagues: Congresswoman DELAURO for whom children and the prevention of violence has been a priority for her; of course, Congressman MURPHY, Senator-elect Murphy, who represents this district with such distinction and such compassion; Congressman COURTNEY; Congressman JOHN LARSON; and Congressman JIM HIMES. All of them spoke with such beauty at our service earlier, at the candlelight service. It was so moving to hear their connections to the people there. Their words were universal.

As the President said last night, this could have been happening any place. We can't tolerate this anymore, he said. These tragedies must end, and to end them we must change.

To change our Nation is already beginning—to reassess the options before us. Leaders from both parties have

stepped forward to put forth a series of steps on the table—from restoring the ban on assault weapons and assault magazines to strengthening the system of background checks. Again, we must address the challenge of mental health and keep weapons out of the hands of those in danger so as not to do harm to themselves and to others.

The voices of reason cannot be silent. Through administrative and legislative action, we must limit the proliferation of weapons ammunitions that have no other purpose than to kill citizens. Our colleagues through the course of the evening—and Congresswoman MALONEY just before me—talked about legislation that we could pass immediately, that which the American people expect us to do, and that is to ban assault magazines. Of course, we want to ban assault weapons but also ban assault magazines. proliferation of weapons ammunitions that have no other purpose than to kill citizens. Our colleagues through the course of the evening—and Congresswoman MALONEY just before me—talked about legislation that we could pass immediately, that which the American people expect us to do, and that is to ban assault magazines. Of course, we want to ban assault weapons but also ban assault magazines.

Why is it that somebody needs a magazine with 20 shots in it and could have two of those, and then 40 lives are at risk? Why is it? I'm not even asking that rhetorically. I'm asking it of those who are advocating that we shouldn't make this change. Haven't we crossed a threshold when children in school are not safe, when people who go to the theater in Aurora have someone come in and just kill them? I mean, just to use those words is very hard.

I don't know what words we could ever use to comfort the families of Newtown, Connecticut. As a mother and a grandmother, I find it—you said "unfathomable," Congresswoman MALONEY—unspeakable, unthinkable, just impossible to imagine how they go forward; but hopefully, God will give them the strength and the courage to do so.

It reminded me of a time before I was in Congress. I had the invitation of President Carter to visit Italy with a delegation—with Geraldine Ferraro, Italian American Members of Congress, Mario Cuomo, etc. We went there to deliver assistance from the United States Government after an earthquake in southern Italy. In one of the villages we visited, there was a rehearsal for first communion going on in the church, so just about every 7-year-old in the village was in church, practicing for first holy communion. When the earthquake hit, the roof came down, and every 7-year-old in the village was gone. It was impossible to console the people there. Not only had they individually lost their children, which is unthinkable, but the whole town had lost that class—their future, their new growth, their hopes, their babies.

So I really transform my thinking about how fragile life is. This was a natural disaster. What happened in Newtown, Connecticut, was a personal decision about someone whose judgment was thoroughly impaired. How could he do it? Because he had his own problems. How could he do this? Because he had the guns. He had the assault magazines to do it. That's how he could do it.

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So let's at least try to mitigate, for circumstances that we may not be able to control entirely, the mental condition of someone, but at least limit the capacity to kill that that person has.

Just hearing the reaction to the expressions of sympathy to the families, to see the President read the names and hear the sobbing, this is something that will scar our country. If we can do something to prevent it from happening again to this extent, maybe we can't prevent it all from happening, but if we're going to take care of our people, we have to take care of them in many ways—address the issue of violence, address the issue of mental health, address the issue of where mental health and assault magazines comes together.

Some people are calling them high capacity or whatever. They're assault magazines. They make every weapon an assault weapon that they are compatible with, whether it's a pistol or rifle or whatever it is. So yes, we want to ban assault weapons, but these assault magazines make every weapon that they are compatible with an assault weapon.

It doesn't take a whole lot to figure out what we need to do immediately, and then maybe do more later. But wouldn't that be a comfort to these families to know that although they lost their babies, their little angels, their precious darlings gone to heaven, that something would come of it to prevent this from happening to others.

I always wondered in the Bible when Christ says:

Suffer little children, and come unto me. Suffer little children, and come unto me.

I guess it was an interpretation of the word "suffer," allow little children to come unto me. But Christ was calling children to Him. He used the word "suffer."

These children, their lives are gone. Their families are suffering. The other children in the school, in the neighborhood, children who just have heard about this, they're suffering, too; suffering about what it feels like to go to school and not be sure you're safe, staying up at night being sleepless in terms of being scared of what could happen.

Let's stop the suffering of our children, whether it's taking their lives, scaring them from going to school or keeping them up at night, giving them nightmares over their safety. These little children did suffer, and they did go on to heaven, a better place. It's the

timing we have a problem with. Far too soon, far too many, for a reason that we can do something about.

So I commend my colleagues for how they came together, led by the community coming together, the community of Newtown and Sandy Hook, such an inspiration to the country, so strong, so courageous, so sad. Let's show them that not only do we offer words, we offer action, and that action will take the form of passing this legislation to ban assault magazines, to do so in a timely fashion, so that in a non-untimely fashion we won't lose any more lives.

Again, I want to commend the President for his beautiful words, mostly to the families last night and to the community, and the source of strength and inspiration he was. He challenged us to act. Let me just say it again: "We can't tolerate this any more," he said. "These tragedies must end; and to end them, we must change."

Thank you, Mr. MURPHY, for your leadership.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the Leader very much. I thank very much my delegation. And I thank all who have come down this evening to publicly express their support for the families of Newtown to help paint us a path forward; and thank you very much, everyone, for your private words as well.

I'll leave everyone with just two final thoughts. First, a thought about Newtown itself.

Newtown is a small town. It's a small town that is very close-knit. As I've said a number of times over the past few days, the pride of Newtown is the Labor Day parade. It's the biggest Labor Day parade in the State, and people from all over the State come to Newtown on Labor Day. Everybody in town spends half the year getting their float or their marching contingent ready—the school groups, the churches, the community and civic groups. It's a slice of Americana out of a Norman Rockwell painting. And that's Newtown. That's particularly Sandy Hook. And the closeness of this community, it makes the grief even deeper because everybody knows everybody. When a school, a community school has this many lost lives, it touches a little bit deeper.

But I think it also paints the path forward to recovery because people are so close, because you don't have to go too far to have somebody be able to reach out and grab your shoulder in order to give you a little bit of a boost, a pathway back. The closeness of Newtown makes it hurt more, but the closeness of Newtown will also make us heal as well.

We've got great leaders as well. Governor Malloy was on the ground within hours, and he basically has not left and has not slept. Pat Llodra, the first selectwoman, has been just an inspiration. The superintendent of schools, the police chief, and the all-volunteer fire department, these men and women

in the fire department, none of them are getting paid, and they've been down at the firehouse, out at the site, in the community almost without end since this incident.

And this final thought. On Sunday morning, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I went to the church service at the local Congregational Church, and a guy grabbed us as we were walking out, gripped our arms tight and said, "Make sure this never, ever happens again."

You know, the honest truth is we can't make sure it never happens again, but we certainly can make it much less likely; and we can certainly find ways to make sure that if someone does slip through the cracks and they set themselves on a path of destruction, the path of destruction is nowhere near the scale we saw in Newtown.

We're grieving right now, and we're going to join this process of figuring out where we go from here very soon, but it helps to know that we have the support and the love and the sympathy and the thoughts of the United States House of Representatives. It will help me to be able to bring back this resolution to the people of Newtown and the people of Connecticut. And we know that very shortly we will join you, we will join the President in figuring out a way to make sure that, within our power, this doesn't happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, like so many Americans, I tried to process the news of this horrible shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

There simply is no way to understand what could lead an individual to want to inflict that much harm and pain on so many innocent lives.

As I dealt with a range of emotions that surfaced not just as a Member of Congress but as a father and grandfather, I could not help but shake the feeling that there is more we could have done as a legislators to prevent this tragedy.

More that could have been done to help the shooter get the mental health treatment he so desperately needed.

More that could have done to prevent such a powerful weapon from getting into the hands of a troubled soul.

More that could have been done to protect the children of Newtown, Connecticut.

Today, I too pray for their community and those who lost their lives on Friday.

Today, I pray . . . but tomorrow, I vow to return to this Chamber and fight every day so that no other community has to deal with this gun madness.

May God bless the victims, their families and the people of Newtown, Connecticut.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in honoring and remembering all of the victims of the tragic shootings at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, CT. My condolences and prayers go to the families and loved ones of the women and children who lost their lives in this senseless tragedy.

I also recognize and applaud the heroic efforts made by the teachers, administrators,

and law enforcement officials who acted quickly to secure and protect the lives of the children who survived this deadly encounter.

As the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, I have listened to the tragic testimony of individuals who have survived or lost loved ones as a result of gun violence.

The parents and grandparents who dropped off their children and grandchildren in the early morning hours of December 14, 2012, could never have imagined that by 10 a.m. on that morning they would have face this tragedy.

This moment will be etched in our memories and will forever remind us of other moments like those of Aurora and Columbine. Moments when lives are needlessly lost due to gun violence.

As we unite in grief, it is time for us to unite in finding a solution. Newtown, CT by all accounts is a small close-knit town. Everyone in Newtown was in some way connected to the students, parents, teachers, and administrators from Sandy Hook Elementary School. And if asked, they would all agree that things like this sad occurrence just do not happen in Newtown.

We must join together in recognizing that things like this can happen in any community and we must immediately begin to address the underlying problems that would lead a young man to take up arms against defenseless women and children.

If we act now and work together, we can work towards preventing these types of tragedies. At around the same time that the children in Newtown, CT faced a deranged gun man, thousands of miles away in China, another man also attacked a group of school children. Again, a tragedy that no one in the community could have anticipated; however, because the man in China was armed only with a knife, he wounded instead of killed 20 children. The lives of 20 children in China were spared because their attacker did not have in his possession a gun.

I believe the solution to these acts of violence can be found by taking a multifaceted approach. There are those who will say that "guns don't kill people, people kill people." The statistics for the harm that people are capable of doing with guns to themselves and others is alarming. People are indeed killing people, with guns. We need to reform how we view guns in this country and also how we address mental health challenges in our communities.

We must act now. This is the right moment to demonstrate that the safety of our children is one of our most sacred priorities. It is imperative that this Congress brings to the House for immediate consideration the following gun safety laws.

First, there must be an immediate ban on all assault weapons.

Second, we must close gun show loopholes which allow for the sale of weapons without a background check.

Third, we must reform our current mental health system to provide support for families to enable them to get immediate assistance for mental health issues. In addition, there should be pathways for families who are facing these challenges to gain emergency access to publicly funded or private counseling services.

Fourth, we must look at the design of primary and secondary schools in which these

schools may need to have reinforced bullet proof window and reinforced secure entrances.

Lastly, we must expand current state laws to hold adults accountable and responsible for the security their weapons. We can help to prevent tragedies like this one from happening again.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, gun violence, claims the lives of over 30,000 people. For every person who dies from a gunshot wound, two others are wounded. Every year, approximately 100,000 Americans are victims of gun violence.

In addition to those who are killed or injured, there are countless others whose lives are forever changed by the deaths of and injuries to their loved ones.

In 2010, guns took the lives of 31,076 Americans in homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings. This is the equivalent of more than 85 deaths each day and more than three deaths each hour.

There were 73,505 Americans treated in hospital emergency departments for non-fatal gunshot wounds in 2010.

Firearms were the third-leading cause of injury-related deaths nationwide in 2010, following poisoning and motor vehicle accidents.

Between 1955 and 1975, the Vietnam War killed over 58,000 American soldiers—less than the number of civilians killed with guns in the U.S. in an average two-year period.

In the first seven years of the U.S.-Iraq War, over 4,400 American soldiers were killed. Almost as many civilians are killed with guns here in the U.S. over the course of 7 weeks rather than 7 years.

HOMICIDE

U.S. homicide rates are 6.9 times higher than rates in 22 other populous high-income countries combined, despite similar non-lethal crime and violence rates. The firearm homicide rate in the U.S. is 19.5 times higher. Guns were used in 11,078 homicides in the U.S. in 2010, comprising almost 35% of all gun deaths, and over 68% of all homicides.

Over a million people have been killed with guns in the United States since 1968, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated.

On average, 33 gun homicides were committed each day for the years 2005–2010.

Regions and states with higher rates of gun ownership have significantly higher rates of homicide than states with lower rates of gun ownership.

Where guns are prevalent, there are significantly more homicides, particularly gun homicides.

SUICIDE

Firearms were used in 19,392 suicides in the U.S. in 2010, constituting almost 62% of all gun deaths.

Over 50% of all suicides are committed with a firearm.

On average, 49 gun suicides were committed each day for the years 2005–2010.

White males, about 40% of the U.S. population, accounted for over 80% of firearm suicides in 2010.

A study of California handgun purchasers found that in the first year after the purchase of a handgun, suicide was the leading cause of death among the purchasers.

Firearms were used in nearly 44% of suicide deaths among persons under age 25 in 2010.

More than 75% of guns used in suicide attempts and unintentional injuries of 0–19 year-olds were stored in the residence of the victim, a relative, or a friend.

The risk of suicide increases in homes where guns are kept loaded and/or unlocked.

UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS AND INJURIES

In 2010, unintentional firearm injuries caused the deaths of 606 people.

From 2005–2010, almost 3,800 people in the U.S. died from unintentional shootings.

Over 1,300 victims of unintentional shootings for the period 2005–2010 were under 25 years of age.

People of all age groups are significantly more likely to die from unintentional firearm injuries when they live in states with more guns, relative to states with fewer guns. On average, states with the highest gun levels had nine times the rate of unintentional firearms deaths compared to states with the lowest gun levels.

A federal government study of unintentional shootings found that 8% of such shooting deaths resulted from shots fired by children under the age of six.

The U.S. General Accounting Office has estimated that 31% of unintentional deaths caused by firearms might be prevented by the addition of two devices: a child-proof safety lock (8%) and a loading indicator (23%).

For years, I have introduced and reintroduced gun safety legislation and supported the efforts of my colleagues who have also worked diligently to protect the lives of our nation's children through adequate gun safety.

I re-introduced H.R. 277 the Child Gun Safety And Gun Access Prevention Act of 2011. This legislation would prevent anyone under the age of 21 from being eligible to own a handgun and would prohibit youth from possessing semiautomatic assault weapons.

Under this legislation parents and supervising adults will be held accountable if a juvenile is able to gain possession of dangerous firearms that are located in their household.

The statistics are clear, firearms in a household must be properly and adequately stored.

A gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used in a completed or attempted suicide (11x), criminal assault or homicide (7x), or unintentional shooting death or injury (4x) than to be used in a self-defense shooting.

Higher household gun ownership correlates with higher rates of homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings.

Keeping a firearm in the home increases the risk of suicide by a factor of 3 to 5 and increases the risk of suicide with a firearm by a factor of 17.

Keeping a firearm in the home increases the risk of homicide by a factor of 3.

A 2009 study found that people in possession of a gun are 4.5 times more likely to be shot in an assault.

My legislation also requires a parent to accompany a minor when attending a gun show.

Our focus should also be on the owners of guns. Parents need to keep guns and ammunition out of the reach of teenagers. Parents should be responsible for securing from their minor children access to dangerous firearms.

Further, my bill is a preventative measure, my legislation encourages school districts to prove or participate in firearm safety programs.

It also addresses the underlying concerns related to violence and suicide. It amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Sec-

retary of Health and Human Services to support programs to promote mental health services among all children and their families and to provide early intervention services to ameliorate identified mental health problems in children and adolescents. This is a multifaceted approach to address this multifaceted issue.

As in years past, I once again will join Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN in advocating for additional gun safety laws. I support Senator FEINSTEIN's bill which she intends to introduce once again in the 113th Congress to ban the sale of automatic assault weapons and ban the sale of big clips, drums or strips of more than 10 bullets. I appreciate Senator FEINSTEIN's leaderships and will continue to join her in advocating to pass this legislation in the 113th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to do all that we can do to reverse this level of gun violence. We must pass common sense gun safety.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3472. An act to amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to provide improvements to such Act.

S. 3687. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF SENATOR INOUYE

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

Ms. HIRONO. Our country joins the people of Newtown in their grief and loss.

Tonight, we also mourn the sudden passing of our friend and patriot, Senator INOUYE of Hawaii. Senator INOUYE loved his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Irene, Ken, Jessica, and little Maggie. Our sympathies also to his hardworking staff.

Senator INOUYE loved Hawaii, and his work on behalf of Hawaii is legendary. There is no one person who did more to ensure Hawaii's future than Senator INOUYE. He loved his country and received the Medal of Honor in her service.

Senator INOUYE never forgot where he came from. And I'm proud to say that I represented his dear mother, Kame Inouye, in 1980 when I first ran for the State legislature. I'm proud to count Senator INOUYE as my friend since that time. We can best honor Senator INOUYE's legacy by continuing to be strong for Hawaii and our country.

□ 2040

EXTENDING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in support of my dear colleagues from Connecticut and throughout our Nation in extending deepest sympathy and affection to the people of Newtown, Connecticut, as they bear the pain of human loss in the recent Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. Despite the heavy burden of grief they are carrying, the citizens of Newtown have truly inspired our entire Nation. Their spirit has lifted ours as they pay tribute to their children and the heroic teachers and school personnel who so nobly acted to save lives. Surely their extraordinary grace under pressure exemplifies what President John Kennedy defined as courage.

Mr. Speaker, I am including in the RECORD the remarks of Liza Long in an article she published about her son, Michael. We must listen to her. And we must listen to the people of Newtown in memory of each of the precious spirits that have graced it, for their highest aspirations, for an America where this never happens again.

In aiding us in this journey of faith, this article poignantly describes the condition of so many children in our country who are hurting and ill with unquiet minds that even medical science cannot fully explain. I commend President Obama for proposing a special commission to listen to mothers like Liza and to the people of Newtown as we shape a better future for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to commend the new Senator-elect from Hawaii for her very poignant tribute of Senator DANIEL INOUYE with whom we had the privilege of serving these many years.

[From The Blue Review, Dec. 16, 2012]

"I AM ADAM LANZA'S MOTHER": A MOM'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE MENTAL ILLNESS CONVERSATION IN AMERICA

[By Liza Long]

Friday's horrific national tragedy—the murder of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut—has ignited a new discussion on violence in America. In kitchens and coffee shops across the country, we tearfully debate the many faces of violence in America: gun culture, media violence, lack of mental health services, overt and covert wars abroad, religion, politics and the way we raise our children. Liza Long, a writer based in Boise, says it's easy to talk about guns. But it's time to talk about mental illness.

While every family's story of mental illness is different, and we may never know the whole of the Lanza's story, tales like this one need to be heard—and families who live them deserve our help.

Three days before 20 year-old Adam Lanza killed his mother, then opened fire on a classroom full of Connecticut kindergartners, my 13-year old son Michael (name changed) missed his bus because he was wearing the wrong color pants

"I can wear these pants," he said, his tone increasingly belligerent, the black-hole pupils of his eyes swallowing the blue irises.