

This is a strong first step towards a meaningful solution to end gun violence in this country. And I hope the House, I hope we take this up soon, and pass this legislation.

But I think we need to do more. And if losing 20 young innocent lives doesn't shake us up to end this epidemic of gun violence that has plagued our Nation's neighborhoods, schools, and churches, then nothing will.

If we harden our hearts to the tears and the testimonies of the parents of Newtown here with us this week, then we're telling every family that has been shattered by a gun and every family that has been shattered by this kind of violence that, if we don't act, we're washing our hands of their agony.

You know, I hope that we still have a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, but this is a good first start.

THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, saving Medicare and Social Security for future generations is something Republicans and Democrats can and should agree on. The House Republican budget preserves Social Security and Medicare for current seniors and future generations by beginning the work of making incremental cost-saving reforms.

President Obama, however, sees the threat to Medicare and Social Security solvency as a chance to get more of what he wants. While Medicare and Social Security are going bankrupt, the President is refusing to consider reforms to save our senior safety nets unless he's allowed to raise taxes in exchange.

When it comes to tax increases, how quickly the President forgets. The President just got done raising taxes on the American people on January 1.

The American people send enough of their hard-earned money to Washington each year, and more should not be taken from them to enable further travails in misguided "stimulus."

Reforms to save Medicare and Social Security are critically important to future generations of Americans. They should be treated as more than bargaining chips by the President.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GENE SEGERBLOOM

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gene Segerbloom, who recently passed away at the age of 94. A true public servant to the end, Gene served Nevada throughout her life, first as a high school teacher, then a Boulder City Councilman and, finally, as a four-term assemblywoman in the Nevada State

Legislature, beginning at the young age of 74.

While in the legislature, she worked hard to defend the rights of women and children, as well as to protect the environment and Nevada's beauty, which was painted by her husband, Cliff, in many beautiful watercolors.

The Segerbloom family has been a fixture in Nevada politics for four generations. Gene's legacy continues through her son, Tick, who is a State senator today. Tick put it perfectly when he said simply, "She loved Nevada. My mother always had a smile on her face, and she never had a bad day."

I miss her personally, and Nevada mourns her loss.

LET'S PUT OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, over the past break, I had the chance to go home to the beautiful Georgia Ninth, where I'm born and raised. And one of the things that I find when I go back that is always refreshing is people seem to want to find answers. They find answers to the problems of their life. They want to know what is happening, and they do not understand inside-the-Beltway-thinking that simply adds more and more talk and more and more rhetoric.

Over the past week I have sat in two committees in which the government's own inspectors have found waste, have found duplication, have found fragmentation, in which everything is going in a way in which people back home don't understand.

Sometimes we come to this well and we say, People, we need to come together. Well, what we've got to understand is what we have just heard the last 2 weeks from people in our district is that they want to see action. They don't understand sequester when you've got all this money sitting out there that is being wasted and duplication in programs such as three programs to study catfish.

As I said in the committee the other day, I've fished for catfish all my life. I don't understand why we need that much inspection.

What we need now is action to cut the waste. We've proposed a balanced budget from the Republican perspective. We're going to continue to fight to put our fiscal house in order.

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, the gun safety debate that we are having is not about politics or political means. It is about doing what's right by our families, protecting our children, and reducing the gun violence that persists in

the streets of my district every single day. If Congress has the power to prevent some of this senseless violence, then we have a moral obligation to do so.

Background checks are an absolute must. Criminals and the mentally ill should not be able to go online or walk into a gun show and walk away with a gun.

My bill, the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act, provides a 25 percent markup on guns traded in, creating an incentive to get the most widely used guns in crimes off of our streets.

It's not complicated. These are commonsense reforms, and the victims of gun violence and their families deserve a vote.

So I urge my Republican colleagues to bring this legislation to the floor. We owe it to the American people, and New Jersey families should not have to wait any longer for commonsense reform.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS "THRESHER" DISASTER

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. This week marks the 50th anniversary of a terrible submarine disaster. The USS *Thresher*, the first in a new class of subs designed to answer the Soviet threat in the Cold War, left the world's greatest shipyard, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, to conduct sea trials on April 10, 1963. Disaster struck, and America lost 129 of its finest men that day.

I honor these men who are on eternal patrol, and I honor their families, their wives and their children, some of whom never met their dads. Their sacrifices did lead to a sub safety program.

One of the surviving children wrote a song about his dad, and he said, "A man whose love is stronger than the tide that's taken you away."

Let's pause and remember these great men and their families.

STOP THE SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'm here because of Angel. Angel was just an ordinary teenager. She loved basketball. She liked to hang out. In fact, that's all she was doing on a balmy night in West Palm Beach, just hanging out, when she was violently killed by a man, devoid of humanity, armed with a gun.

And so, instead of dressing Angel for her prom, her mother dressed her for her funeral. Instead of attending Angel's graduation, her family visited her gravesite.

Isn't it time to take the guns out of the hands of criminals and madmen?

Isn't it time for this Congress to stop the senseless gun violence?

Mr. Speaker, let us vote.

□ 1240

AMERICA WORKS ACT

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this week, Mr. HOYER launched his Make It In America initiative to strengthen our manufacturing sector and spur job growth. American manufacturing has been a bright spot in our economic recovery, but too often I hear from my district that a lack of skilled workers is limiting their opportunities for growth. In Illinois' 10th District, we have nearly 700 manufacturing facilities employing over 98,000 people. These businesses, and our country, will remain globally competitive only if we continue to develop and train our workforce with the skills necessary for the highly technical work that 21st-century manufacturing requires.

That's precisely why I introduced the AMERICA Works Act. I'm proud to have it included in the Make It In America agenda. This commonsense legislation promotes collaboration between industry leaders, colleges, and job-training programs to prepare students and workers with the precise skills and jobs where talented people are most needed. AMERICA Works and the Make It In America agenda is the comprehensive approach we need to ensure success for American workers and manufacturers.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1120, PREVENTING GREATER UNCERTAINTY IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 146 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 146

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1120) to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-6, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question

shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 146 provides for a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1120, the Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act. Although the Rules Committee solicited amendments last week, we received only two amendments, one Democrat and one Republican, neither of which was germane to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the House Education and Workforce Committee and I have been hard at work conducting oversight and challenging the National Labor Relations Board on its anti-jobs agenda. In January 2012, President Obama made three so-called "recess appointments" to the National Labor Relations Board while Congress was not in recess, in violation of the Constitution. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia recently ruled these appointments were unconstitutional. This decision calls into question every action the Board has taken since these so-called recess appointments were made.

The bill before us today, H.R. 1120, would provide greater certainty for employers and unions by requiring the Board to cease all activity that requires a three-member quorum and prohibits the Board from enforcing any decision made since the appointments in question were made in January 2012.

It is important to note also what this bill does not do. It does not prohibit the National Labor Relations Board's regional offices from accepting and processing charges of unfair labor practices. The bill also allows the Board to resume activities if one of the three following conditions is met:

The U.S. Supreme Court rules on the constitutionality of recess appointments;

A quorum of the Board is confirmed by the Senate;

The expiration of the recess appointees' terms at the end of this year.

Finally, H.R. 1120 ensures any action approved by the so-called "recess appointees" is reviewed and approved by a future Board that has been constitutionally appointed.

As my colleagues across the aisle are sure to point out, the President has recently nominated three individuals for Senate confirmation, in addition to the two he nominated in February. The bill before us remains necessary as a commonsense pause button on the Board's activities while the legal uncertainty is resolved. It would give employers and unions the certainty they need to operate in the interim.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this rule and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentlelady for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to both the rule and the underlying bill. The bill is inaccurately named. In fact, quite to the contrary, the bill should be called the Creating Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act, throwing into question actions of this Board, decisions on both sides, as well as agreements that have been reached through the process in the interest of business, as well as working Americans.

Two weeks ago, Congress approved a continuing resolution on a bipartisan basis to prevent the Federal Government from closing. There were give-and-takes. There were things in it from both sides that weren't perfect. Nevertheless, the majority and minority in this House, the Republicans and Democrats, worked together in good faith, successfully, to prevent a government shutdown, consistent with what the American people wanted and consistent with any responsible stewardship of the public trust.

After achieving that, I was initially optimistic that when the House reconvened this week, we might be able to build on the spirit of compromise, perhaps tackling the difficult issue of fixing our broken immigration system and replacing it with one that works, that restores the rule of law, perhaps dealing with some of the gun safety issues that are being debated across society, perhaps dealing with tax reform and bringing down our rates and broadening the base, perhaps dealing with finally battling our budget deficit.

But, instead, here we are back in Congress, picking up where we were before we worked together on the continuing resolution, passing pointless bills for presumably political reasons—bills that have no sign of passage in the Senate, bills that have a direct veto threat from the President of the United States, which is in his Statement of Administration Policy which I entered into the RECORD last night in the Rules Committee, and just as importantly, a bill that has no positive impact on the