

conversation after conversation—painful, demanding, grief-stricken in recalling those hours after that horrific, unspeakable tragedy. As one who arrived there within hours of the shooting, I saw, firsthand, their unimaginable pain and grief as they came out of the Sandy Hook firehouse after learning for the first time that their babies would not return; loved ones, teachers, educators perishing while trying to save their children in their care.

Those families came to Washington to tell their stories and advocate for change so that others would be spared that same experience, so that others would be spared the same fate as the 3,300 who have died since Newtown and the horror they and their families experienced.

Just 4 months ago the conventional wisdom was that gun violence legislation would never go anywhere in the Congress. In fact, gun violence was politically untouchable. Just days ago, 60 votes was thought to be unreachable as a goal. The fact is the political landscape is changing seismically as we speak. As we deliberate, minds are changing. Voices are piercing that conventional wisdom. The courage and compassion of the Newtown families have disproved and completely defeated the pundits, the conventional wisdom, the prognosticators who said it could not be done.

The world watched that tragedy on December 14 at Newtown. I said on that evening at the vigil at St. Rose of Lima Church: The world is watching Newtown.

Indeed, the world watched Newtown, and today the world watched the Senate as it took this historic, and for many of our colleagues a courageous, brave step.

Today we kept faith with those families and the victims of that tragedy in a first step to finally do something about gun violence. Now we must continue working, taking nothing for granted, avoiding complacency and overconfidence because every step is uphill when it comes to gun violence.

I thank particularly two of my colleagues, JOE MANCHIN and PAT TOOMEY, because they stepped forward from States that may not be as receptive to what they have done as others, but they deserve the thanks and gratitude of their States in their statesmanship in supporting and forging this compromise.

I will continue to support and work for a truly universal background check system, but this bipartisan compromise represents significant progress. It is a vast improvement over current law. It will make sure that a lot fewer criminals get their hands on guns. It will make our streets and schools safer.

On the morning of December 14, I—along with Senator MURPHY—pledged to do everything I could to make sure more parents will not have to bury their children because of preventable gun violence. Expanded background

checks are part of that pledge, and we are helping to fulfill it by supporting it. This is only part of a bigger and more comprehensive solution to this problem, but this compromise is a good starting point for next week's debate on gun violence.

We have talked a lot about Newtown and the victims who have evoked our most powerful grief, breaking our hearts, and evoking memories of our own children at that age. As I said, I went to Newtown as a public official, but what I saw was through the eyes of a parent. Other victims of loved ones evoke the same memories.

Today, I wish to evoke the memory of another tragedy that many of us in Connecticut remember well. It happened at Hartford Distributors, which is just outside Hartford.

On a beautiful morning, August 2, 2010—and a lot of what I am going to summarize comes from this great newspaper account which appeared in the Hartford Courant shortly thereafter.

As the Courant reported:

In three minutes on that bright summer morning, Thornton executed eight men, shooting them all from behind and laughing at one point as he chased down a wounded victim.

Thornton went into a kitchenette near the office, saying that he wanted a drink of water. He pulled a pistol from his lunch pail and shot operations director Louis Felder. Hollander said he heard Felder yell: "Omar, you can't!" followed by loud bangs.

Hollander was hit by one of the bullets that passed through Felder. As he crawled into his father's office—

Hartford Distributors is owned by the Hollander family.

Hollander heard Cirigliano yell—"Omar, no! Omar, no!" Thornton shot Cirigliano twice, once in the back of the head and once in the forehead.

He systematically executed another six people after those two, and then he killed himself.

The victims that day were men who came to work every day and had families. They came to work expecting to come home at the end of the day. Their families expected them to come home. They were men who had worked in that place for many years by dint of their sweat and backbreaking labor. They had come to a place in their lives where they could enjoy it. They had enough financial security that they expected to enjoy it for some time. That day the killer deprived them of their future and their families' future as well.

Gun violence affects all of us in different ways. I have visited the memorial that was established for the brave men who died that day at Hartford Distributors. It is a quiet, peaceful place that is exquisitely and beautifully done. It evokes the memories of men who died while they were on the job because of a deranged individual who was, in fact, about to be fired.

Connecticut's experience with this kind of death extends to its own facility. The State lottery experienced a similar horrific and brutal slaying. The

scene played out in seconds, which seemed to take an eternity, on a Friday morning.

It was a routine morning for dozens of State lottery office workers, and it turned into a nightmare of blood, fear, and betrayal. The shooter was named Matthew Beck, and he summarily executed men and women there that day. Connecticut remembers those State employees who provided public service day in and day out and were killed while they were at work. Again, they were working men and women who wanted nothing more than to go home safely that night.

My colleague, CHRIS MURPHY, has recounted many stories. Many of the stories were about children. All of them had their future ahead of them. Their future ended brutally and horrifically because of gun violence.

We have taken a step today—a first step—hopefully followed by more steps next week.

I wish to end by thanking Members of this Chamber for giving us the opportunity to debate and vote and say to the American people we are willing to be held accountable.

The majority of American people want commonsense and sensible measures to end the violence on the streets, in our neighborhoods, and in our place of work, such as Hartford Distributors and the State lottery. We want to make sure the hard-working men and women who go to their jobs, play by the rules, and expect fairness have the opportunity to go home that night.

I thank this Chamber and the Members who voted today, and I hope those Members will join us in the future so we can make sure fewer victims perish as a result of this horrific epidemic in our country, gun violence.

Thank you.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MODIFYING THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE STOCK ACT

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 716, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 716) to modify the requirements under the STOCK Act regarding online access to certain financial disclosure statements and related forms.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COONS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and

passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 716) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 716

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MODIFICATIONS OF ONLINE ACCESS TO CERTAIN FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS AND RELATED FORMS.

(a) PUBLIC, ONLINE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except with respect to financial disclosure forms filed by officers and employees referred to in paragraph (2), section 8(a) and section 11(a) of the STOCK Act (5 U.S.C. App. 105 note) shall not be effective.

(2) EXEMPTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The officer and employees referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

- (A) The President.
- (B) The Vice President.
- (C) Any Member of Congress.
- (D) Any candidate for Congress.

(E) Any officer occupying a position listed in section 5312 or section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, having been nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate to that position.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to change the effective date for the internet publication of certain information to prevent harm to the national security or endangering the military officers and civilian employees to whom the publication requirement applies, and for other purposes” is repealed.

(b) ELECTRONIC FILING AND ONLINE AVAILABILITY.—

(1) FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CANDIDATES.—Section 8(b) of the STOCK Act (5 U.S.C. App. 105 note) is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “, OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “18 months after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “January 1, 2014”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) public access to—

“(i) financial disclosure reports filed by Members of Congress and candidates for Congress,

“(ii) reports filed by Members of Congress and candidates for Congress of a transaction disclosure required by section 103(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, and

“(iii) notices of extensions, amendments, and blind trusts, with respect to financial disclosure reports described in clauses (i) and (ii),

pursuant to title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 101 et seq.), through databases that are maintained on the official websites of the House of Representatives and the Senate.”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking the first two sentences; and

(ii) in the last sentence, by striking “under this section” and inserting “under paragraph (1)(B)”;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “under this subsection” and inserting “under paragraph (1)(B)”;

(E) in paragraph (4), by inserting “be able to” after “shall”; and

(F) in paragraph (5), by striking “under this subsection” and inserting “under paragraph (1)(B)”.

(2) FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS.—Section 11(b) of the STOCK Act (5 U.S.C. App. 105 note) is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “EMPLOYEES” and inserting “OFFICIALS”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “18 months after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “January 1, 2014”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) public access to—

“(i) financial disclosure reports filed by the President, the Vice President, and any officer occupying a position listed in section 5312 or section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, having been nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate to that position,

“(ii) reports filed by any individual described in clause (i) of a transaction disclosure required by section 103(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, and

“(iii) notices of extensions, amendments, and blind trusts, with respect to financial disclosure reports described in clauses (i) and (ii),

pursuant to title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 101 et seq.), through databases that are maintained on the official website of the Office of Government Ethics.”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking the first two sentences; and

(ii) in the last sentence, by striking “under this section” and inserting “under paragraph (1)(B)”;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “under this subsection” and inserting “under paragraph (1)(B)”;

(E) in paragraph (4), by inserting “be able to” after “shall”; and

(F) in paragraph (5), by striking “under this subsection” and inserting “under paragraph (1)(B)”.

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. COONS. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. COONS assumed the Chair.)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the motion to proceed be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 649) to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a

background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

AMENDMENT NO. 715

(Purpose: To protect Second Amendment rights, ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and provide a responsible and consistent background check process)

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia [Mr. MANCHIN] for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. SCHUMER, proposes an amendment numbered 715.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF CARSON CITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to honor the Rotary Club of Carson City. Celebrating 75 years of service to the community, the Rotary Club has shown great dedication to America's ideals of prosperity, education, and opportunity. It is my great honor to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Carson City's rich history of service, particularly in light of its recent anniversary.

Hans Jepson, president of the Minden Rotary Club, and the civic-minded Rev. John L. Harvey, began plans to create the Carson City Rotary Club in the summer of 1937. The first meeting saw five attendees who sketched plans for the organization's future. Their first plan of action was to add the Carson City Rotary Club to the Nevada roster.

After carefully selecting additional members, the Rotary Club of Carson City had its first official meeting on January 25, 1938. A month later, it was accepted as a member of Rotary International—an achievement that reflected several months of earnest effort on the part of the pioneers of the local movement.

Initially comprised of only 25 men, the Rotary Club of Carson City has since expanded to encompass almost 90 members. Ever mindful of the organization's previous motto “He Profits Most Who Serves The Best”, the members provide “Service Above Self” to the Carson City community.

Since its founding, the Rotary Club of Carson City has realized many accomplishments, including its participation in the global campaign that reduced transmission of the Polio Virus