

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the horrific mass shooting that took place on June 12 at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, is a stark reminder of the urgent responsibility that we have to reduce gun violence in this country. This monstrous attack on the LGBT community in a place of refuge and empowerment requires us to act.

The shooter in Orlando used an assault rifle that is virtually identical to the ones used by mass killers in San Bernardino, Umpqua Community College, Aurora, and Sandy Hook Elementary School. That is no coincidence.

Out of the eight high-profile mass shootings that have taken place in the past year, seven involved the use of an assault weapon. When an assault weapon is used in a mass shooting, the number of people shot increases by 153 percent, and the number of people killed increases by 63 percent.

These are weapons of war that are designed to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible. They belong on a battlefield; they don't belong in our communities; and I will continue to fight to reinstate the assault weapons ban.

This morning, I want to use the time that I have to talk about two proposals that the Speaker should bring up for immediate vote: no fly, no buy, and universal background checks.

This is really, really simple. If you are too dangerous to fly on an airplane, then you are too dangerous to buy a gun. But under the laws that we have in place today, someone who is on the FBI's terrorist watch list, who is too dangerous to get on a plane, can still walk into any gun store in America, pass a background check, and walk out with an assault weapon or any other gun he wants. In fact, from 2004 until 2014, more than 2,000 suspected terrorists bought firearms legally in this country, and they are going to continue doing so until we stop them.

Until 9/11, bombs were the weapon of choice for terrorists looking to strike the United States; but in the 15 years since then, 95 percent of terrorist deaths that took place in the United States resulted from gunfire.

It is impossible—impossible—to understand that House Republicans have now voted 13 times to block the no fly, no buy proposal that Congressman PETER KING and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON introduced to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists in this country. Why? What are they afraid of? That we might actually stop a terrorist from passing a background check before he buys an assault rifle at Cabela's?

Bring the no fly, no buy bill to the floor today. Let's have an up-or-down vote. Let the American people hold us accountable for where we stand. This should be a no-brainer.

More than 80 percent of Americans believe we should prevent suspected terrorists from buying a gun, and more than 90 percent of Americans believe that a background check should be required on every firearm sale so we can keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those with such serious mental illness that possessing a gun would make them a danger to themselves or others.

Bills are pending to fix our background check system and to require a background check on every gun sale. This is one of the single most important and effective steps that we can take to reduce gun violence in this country.

Right now, anyone can go to a gun show or get on the Internet and purchase a gun without a background check. As many as two out of every five firearm transactions today are conducted without a background check. It is too easy for a criminal, a domestic abuser, a terrorist, or someone with a serious mental illness to buy a gun through this loophole.

Every day, background checks block 171 attempted purchases by felons, 48 attempted purchases by domestic abusers, and 19 attempted purchases by fugitives. It is critical that we strengthen the background check system and require checks on all firearm sales so we can keep more dangerous individuals from acquiring these deadly weapons. Bring the Fix Gun Checks Act to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, we held a moment of silence last week for the victims in Orlando. I know that all of us have kept the victims and their loved ones and the people of Orlando in our thoughts and prayers since June 12. But the best way to honor the lives lost in this horrific tragedy is to do something to prevent it from happening to others. A moment of silence is not enough. We need a moment of sustained action in this Chamber, and we need it today.

Mr. Speaker, it will be an insult to the victims of this shooting and their families and every victim of every shooting in this country if we continue to do nothing to prevent future tragedies. Do not let this Chamber adjourn until we have voted on these critical issues. Bring these bills to the floor today. Nothing is more important than stopping the bloodshed and ensuring the safety and security of our constituents.

□ 1030

THE SENATE SHOULD PASS H.
CON. RES. 129

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H. Con. Res. 129.

To do so, let me share a story about a constituent of mine who is a Holocaust survivor from Lithuania. She was 11 years old when the German SS Nazis

marched into her town and gathered her and her family up. She was separated right away from her family, and, I guess fortunately for her, she did not appear Jewish to the German soldiers.

When she was asked her name, she told them it was Weber, which happens to be my name and the way my grandfather would have pronounced it when he came over from Germany on the boat in 1903. Anyway, the soldier thought she wasn't Jewish, so he let her go.

She ran into the forest, Mr. Speaker, and she hid in barns and other places until the end of the war. She spent the years of that war hungry and frightened but somehow managed to survive. She was liberated by the Russians at the war's end.

This woman, who was a young girl when she was 11 back during World War II, is now in her 90s and living in my district in her home in Galveston, Texas. Mr. Speaker, she is in need of 24-hour care to remain in her home. Unfortunately, funds are running low to keep her in her home, with the high cost of providers. She is unable to stay there, it looks like.

She lives on Social Security, but fortunately the Claims Conference has been able to assist her through providing funding by the German Government for 25 regular hours a week and some exceptional hours a week provided on her increasing healthcare needs.

Additionally, the Jewish community of Houston, through the generosity of a private fund which assists Holocaust survivors, through case management efforts of Jewish Family Service in Houston, has also been able to provide up to 59 hours a week of home care above that which the German Government has funded.

As of June 1, 2016, Mr. Speaker, the Jewish Family Service in Houston has not been able to continue this level of care.

She and other constituents of mine who are Holocaust victims would all greatly benefit from increased funding which is included in House Concurrent Resolution 129, asking the German Government to provide that funding for that very home care. This would ensure that those Holocaust survivors are able to remain in their homes with dignity for the remaining few years of their life.

Thankfully, H. Con. Res. 129 passed—with bipartisan support, I might add—in the House last week. I encourage our counterparts in the Senate to pass this legislation swiftly. Mr. Speaker, you know I am right.

CALLING FOR A VOTE ON BEHALF
OF THE VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am ROSA DELAURO from the State of Connecticut. I represent the Third Congressional District.

I am so proud today to join with my colleagues on the issue of what do we do in the United States Congress, the body that deliberates the major issues of the day, the body that is entrusted by the people who put their faith and trust in their elected representatives to do right, to do right by the American people, yes, to keep them and their families safe.

In Connecticut, gun homicides in 2013 were 71; in 2014, 56—we went down; 2015, 79. Probably one of the most searing events in the United States of America was the massacre of children, of babies in Sandy Hook. That isn't to say that in every city in this country children are not dying every day. Since Sandy Hook, one American child is killed every single day. These are our children. Almost 100,000 have died by gun violence since Sandy Hook.

What I would like to do is to read to you the names of victims at Sandy Hook. These are not what we are here today to speak about. Yes, we talk about statistics and we talk about percentages, but what is important is to know about the flesh and blood behind those numbers.

At Sandy Hook:

Rachel D'Avino, 29, a teacher's aide.

Dawn Hochsprung, 47, principal of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Ann Marie Murphy, 52, a teacher's aide.

Lauren Rousseau, 30, a teacher.

Mary Sherlach, 56, school psychologist.

Victoria Leigh Soto, 27, a teacher who hid her children in a closet. And I know, because she was a constituent, her family today suffers every day because of her loss. She shielded these babies, and she lost her life.

And who are these babies?

Charlotte Bacon, 6 years old.

Daniel Barden, 7.

Olivia Engel, 6.

Josephine Gay, 7.

Dylan Hockley, 6.

Madeleine Hsu, 6.

Catherine Hubbard, 6.

Chase Kowalski, 7.

Jesse Lewis, 6.

Ana Marquez-Greene, 6.

James Mattioli, 6.

Grace McDonnell, 7.

Emilie Parker, 6.

Jack Pinto, 6.

Noah Pozner, 6.

Caroline Previdi, 6.

Jessica Rekos, 6.

Avielle Richman, 6.

Benjamin Wheeler, 6.

Allison Wyatt, 6.

We all have children. We have grandchildren. And I won't forget that day because my grandchildren at that time were 5, 6, 7, and 8 years old. I had to steel myself to be away from them because when I looked at them I just began to cry, because it can be anyone's child, anyone's grandchild who will lose their life.

One child every single day is killed by gun violence in the United States of America. They leave families, they

leave siblings who are unable to even cope with the sense of loss. These families have tried to channel their grief by the Newtown Promise.

Why are we here today? We are here today to say: universal background checks; no fly, no buy. It is as simple as that.

And for me personally, as my colleague from Rhode Island said, we should ban assault weapons. We should ban them. That is what occurred at Sandy Hook and several other of these tragedies.

The American people sent us here to vote. That is what you have done, demand that this Congress vote on this issue. Debate it and vote, and people can be free to vote whatever way they choose to, but our Constitution says we vote on these issues.

We should not be denied. Those children all over America, the adults, should not be forgotten. They should be remembered and that this body was allowed to vote on their behalf.

WE SHOULD PROTECT ARTISTS AND SONGWRITERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the DMCA, as it is commonly known here in this Chamber, is nearly 20 years old.

Now, just as a reminder, 20 years ago, Google was being born. Americans were out dancing the "Macarena," and they were holding cell phones that were the size of bricks. That was 20 years ago.

Tech companies like YouTube may have changed the way Americans consume music, but our laws have not kept pace to protect the songwriters and the artists who actually create that music.

This week, 180 musical artists and songwriters, including Taylor Swift, Paul McCartney, The Black Keys, and the bands Chicago and U2, sent a letter to Congress calling for the reform of the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a copy of this letter.

DEAR CONGRESS: The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) is broken and no longer works for creators.

As songwriters and artists who are a vital contributing force to the U.S. and to American exports around the world, we are writing to express our concern about the ability of the next generation of creators to earn a living. The existing laws threaten the continued viability of songwriters and recording artists to survive from the creation of music. Aspiring creators shouldn't have to decide between making music and making a living. Please protect them.

One of the biggest problems confronting songwriters and recording artists today is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. This law was written and passed in an era that is technologically out-of-date compared to the era in which we live. It has allowed major tech companies to grow and generate huge profits by creating ease of use for consumers

to carry almost every recorded song in history in their pocket via a smartphone, while songwriters' and artists' earnings continue to diminish. Music consumption has skyrocketed, but the monies earned by individual writers and artists for that consumption has plummeted.

The DMCA simply doesn't work. It's impossible for tens of thousands of individual songwriters and artists to muster the resources necessary to comply with its application. The tech companies who benefit from the DMCA today were not the intended protectorate when it was signed into law nearly two decades ago. We ask you to enact sensible reform that balances the interests of creators with the interests of the companies who exploit music for their financial enrichment. It's only then that consumers will truly benefit.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Here is the problem: the DMCA safe harbor provision.

What this does, YouTube has created a platform where anyone with a smartphone can access nearly any song ever recorded. Often this content is infringed, and it does not—does not—compensate the artist who created it.

The safe harbor provision immunizes YouTube from claims of copyright infringement if it removes the infringing content in a timely fashion after YouTube has been notified by an artist or a record company. With millions of songs on YouTube, it is really impossible.

Grammy-winning jazz/classical composer Maria Schneider has said the following about the DMCA: "The DMCA makes it my responsibility to police the entire Internet on a daily basis. As fast as I take my music down, it reappears again on the same site like an endless Whac-A-Mole game."

This not only threatens the vitality of songwriters but the economic contributions they make in our communities. Take my home area in Tennessee. A 2012 study shows that in Nashville itself the music industry is a \$5.5 billion asset to the economy. Looking at the entire middle Tennessee region, it is \$9.7 billion.

This is a fundamental American principle. If you make something, if you create something, it belongs to you. In no other walk of life do we allow people to steal the work of others and turn a blind eye, except when it comes to songwriters and entertainers.

Our friends in the tech industry, who do little to nothing to see that the songwriter is protected on their platforms, are the first ones to complain if one of their patents is slightly infringed upon. So I ask them, why are their creations deserving of protection but the creations of others are not? It is unfair, and they know it.

But creators are not going to keep taking it. The times, they are a-changin', as Bob Dylan would say. That is why, for years, I have sought to protect music creators through legislation, like the Fair Play Fair Pay Act that Representative NADLER and I are working on and the Songwriter Equity Act.

To our friends in the tech industry, I say this: willful blindness or situational ethics aren't okay; ignorance