

PURSUE COMMONSENSE GUN LEGISLATION

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the opportunity to hear from the families of victims of gun violence. Each story was unique and heartbreaking. But for all the differences in their tragic circumstances, one common thread was echoed by every individual in the room: too many guns are too easily available.

One mother said: "Until we get these guns off the street, the cycle is going to continue."

One way to start to get the guns off the streets is through background checks.

My office has heard from thousands over the last 2 weeks, over the phone, over Facebook, over Twitter. We have heard that Congress can no longer bend to the will of the gun lobby and prevent the passage of commonsense legislation that could save lives.

During that meeting last week, a mother told me: "Changes can be made because I have a voice."

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to heed our constituents' call and pursue real, commonsense legislation that helps get guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

END GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the American public want us to act. They spoke loud and clear. They want an end to the gun violence that is taking place in this country.

We sat down on this House floor to stand up for those Americans who want to see Congress put on RECORD as to where they stand on this issue. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—80 percent-plus support background checks. They support no fly, no buy. Mr. Speaker, all we are asking for this week and what the American people are asking you for is a vote on these two simple principles.

The Rules Committee is going to meet tonight. We ask that you include two amendments that Democrats will bring forward: no fly, no buy—if you can't fly on an airplane, you can't buy a gun—and comprehensive, expanded backgrounds checks.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that is too much for us to ask. The American people will be watching to see where their Members of Congress stand on these two important issues.

SILENCE IS DEAFENING

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, between the time that 20 little children and 6 teachers were shot at Sandy Hook Elementary School and the 49 people that were slaughtered in Orlando, we have stood on this floor 27 times for a moment of silence. We send our condolences and our thoughts and prayers, and then the gavel sounds and we go back to business as usual. Well, 2 weeks ago, the Democrats in this House said no more silence. The silence has become deafening.

In the city of Chicago, we lost 70 people in the month of June to gun deaths. There is no moment of silence for them. They are women, children, men, sons, husbands.

We have the ability in the House of Representatives to save lives—not every life, but a lot of lives—and the moments of silence, of doing nothing, have run out. It is time for us to act. We have two bills on our agenda that would begin to address the problem. Republicans have to join with us to act now. The silence is too deafening.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with all the voices that we hear today to speak to the urgent need to address the problem of gun violence in this country.

We need to consider not only mass shootings, but the daily toll of gun violence that afflicts all of our communities. In 1 year, on average, 108,000 Americans are shot in murders, assaults, suicides and suicide attempts, accidents, and police action. Approximately 32,500 of these individuals die. Nearly 12,000 are murdered—more than 31 Americans every day.

We know what will work to reduce deaths. We must act to expand background checks to close the private sale loophole and make sure those checks prevent the sale of guns to terrorists. We should come together to vote on the two bills and reduce gun violence.

PUT THE BILLS ON THE FLOOR

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, the issues are pretty clear. I came up for one simple reason: I am asking my Republican friends: What are you afraid of? What are you afraid of? You get the votes.

I ran for Congress to debate and vote on the issues of the day, vote my conscience—win some, lose some. What did you run for? Did you run to stifle democratic debate? Did you run to simply say to the American people, "We don't care what you say"?

If you believe the words you have been saying for the last week, put the bills on the floor and have a vote. That is the American way.

What are you afraid of? Are you afraid you can't control your Members? Are you afraid some of your Members may actually have to stand up, find some courage, and vote their conscience?

Put these two bills on the floor. The American people want it, the American people deserve it, and the American people are demanding it.

BIPARTISAN ACTION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IS NEEDED

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect us to act to protect them. We need a tough and smart counterterrorism strategy to go after ISIS, and that has to include taking commonsense steps to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists.

In a 2011 propaganda video, an al Qaeda spokesman encouraged radicals to buy guns in the United States, saying: America is absolutely awash in obtainable firearms.

The overwhelming majority of the American people support reasonable fixes to prevent terrorists from buying guns and to expand background checks for all commercial gun sales. Yet, in the 3½ years since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the House has not held a single vote on legislation to prevent gun violence. In that time, gun violence has killed more than 100,000 Americans.

It took a 25-hour sit-in and thousands of Americans rising up and demanding a vote, but here we are finally voting on something. It is a step forward. Unfortunately, the bill we are voting on this week was written by the gun lobby, and it won't do anything to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

So let's keep working. Let's send bipartisan legislation to the President's desk, because the American people are demanding action. We should listen and we should act.

IN THE SPIRIT OF ELIE WIESEL

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Elie Wiesel, one of the great human beings who graced this Earth, passed away this week. He said that sometimes we are powerless to prevent injustice, but we should never fail to protest against injustice.

JOHN LEWIS is a man in this House who is of the same caliber as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King. He is the same caliber as Elie Wiesel. When JOHN LEWIS and other Democrats protested on this floor, they were here because they might not have been able to prevent injustice, but they needed to protest. And they did it in the spirit of Elie Wiesel.

Mr. Speaker, you said JOHN LEWIS and the Democrats' activity on the floor was a stunt. It wasn't a stunt. It was in keeping with the great tradition of people like Elie Wiesel and JOHN LEWIS who know that at sometimes, when society and the government are so far out of line, there need to be extraordinary steps to bring attention to issues and make a change. The bill you are bringing to the floor is a stunt. JOHN LEWIS does not engage in stunts.

REJECT THE GUN LOBBY BILL

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is sad that it took a 26-hour sit-in of 177 Members just to get a vote on one gun violence prevention bill this Congress. It is even sadder that Speaker RYAN still doesn't get it.

This week, we are voting on a big gun lobby bill that already failed in the Senate. It would give the Attorney General only 72 hours to determine if someone on the no-fly list should be able to purchase a gun. House rules require 3 days between a bill's introduction and a vote. Why does Speaker RYAN think that the House deserves 3 days to read a bill, but the FBI, Attorney General, and our courts should fully investigate a suspected terrorist in the same amount of time?

This isn't an attempt to address gun violence. It is a shameful attempt to claim that a vote was held, without hurting the majority's precious score-card rating with the big gun lobby.

This isn't a game. With each passing hour, another family mourns the loss of a loved one.

I urge my colleagues to reject the gun lobby bill. I call on you, Speaker RYAN, to have the courage to call up H.R. 1217, the bipartisan King-Thompson background check bill, a real gun violence prevention measure.

□ 1430

ASSAULT WEAPONS

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, in the Iraq war, my unit fought door-to-door in some of the areas now controlled by ISIL, and we did it armed with an assault rifle called the M16A4.

Why did the Marine Corps send us into battle with this weapon?

At the risk of making anyone feel uncomfortable, the simple answer is this: Because the M16 is a machine designed to kill and maim people. It is not for target shooting, or hunting deer. The M16 was refined for the sole purpose of taking enemy lives in combat.

That is why it defies explanation that Republicans believe assault rifles like the M16 or the SIG SAUER MCX used in Orlando should be carried in our communities. Weapons that Ma-

rines use to kill enemy combatants in Iraq don't belong on the streets of Phoenix.

Mr. Speaker, it is even harder to understand why Republicans apparently think known terrorists should be allowed to purchase these firearms. They plan to bring a sham bill to the floor later this week that law enforcement leaders tell us will do nothing to prevent individuals on the terrorist watch list from obtaining these deadly weapons. That is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, here is the bottom line. If you are too dangerous to fly on a plane, then you are too dangerous to buy the kind of weapon I carried in Iraq.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the endless gun violence happening across the country, the American people are calling desperately on Congress to act.

Under pressure from House and Senate Democrats during the historic sit-in, Republican leadership has finally agreed to allow a vote on legislation to prevent gun sales to suspected terrorists placed on the no-fly list. While it is my view that this legislation does not go far enough to prevent violence in our neighborhoods, it serves as an important step in order to continue an open dialogue on this issue.

My grandson, who is a responsible district manager in a very large corporation in this Nation, is an NRA member. He hunts and he plays golf. He asked me: "Granny, why must anybody have an AK-47? Why must these kind of weapons be sold to people? They must have background checks." Now, this is a member of the NRA.

Mr. Speaker, as Congress works to reduce gun violence and gun-related deaths throughout our country, I encourage my colleagues to immediately bring forward meaningful and comprehensive reforms.

THIS IS THE TIME TO ACT

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we celebrated Fourth of July, the 240th birthday of our Nation's independence, and the celebrations were quite vivid in my district, which includes parts of Philadelphia, the birthplace of our Nation.

One refrain I got often when walking in parades in my district yesterday, and I was really struck by it, was people calling out: "Thank you, thank you for the sit-in. I watched the sit-in. That's great."

I was really struck because, frankly, I have not had that experience of people so finely tuned to what is being broadcast on C-SPAN. It speaks to the

desire for people that we address this issue and the frustration that is out there that we just have moments of silence, and then total silence.

This is the time to act. No more Orlandos, no more Sandy Hooks, no more Auroras. Let's call up today the two bills that are supported by 90 percent of the American people.

IT IS TIME TO DO THE RIGHT THING

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today simply because it is time. It is time to save lives. It is time to close the gun show and Internet loophole. It is time to make sure if you are on the no-fly list, you can't buy a gun in America.

It is time for the American people to know where their representatives stand. It is time to find out who will prevail, the people of the United States, or the NRA. It is time to end moments of silence and move into legislative action to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, don't you think it is time to give the people a vote?

Mr. Speaker, it is time for you to do the right thing for all American people and help save lives throughout the United States of America. It is time to do the right thing.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED US

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time and I think it is time for the Congress and the House of Representatives to not look at diversionary issues, but to look at how the Federal Government has failed us. The Federal Government failed us in Orlando, it failed us in San Bernardino, it failed us in Boston.

The United States is under attack by extremist organizations, radicals. They have used a pressure cooker in Boston. They used pipe bombs and mechanisms they bought from plumbing stores in San Bernardino. They used weaponry that they acquired when the Federal Government failed in Orlando.

It is time that we get our watch list corrected so that we don't put people on, take them off, don't know who is on the list, who is off the list. It is time that the Federal agencies for law enforcement and protecting us connect the dots and not miss the opportunities to stop the Orlandos, the San Bernardinos and the Bostons.

THE TIME IS NOW

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the American people have