

that we actually take up some legislation instead of the Republican majority continually ducking the conversation:

Rachel Scott, 17.
Daniel Rohrbough, 15.
Dave Sanders, the teacher, 47.
Kyle Velasquez, 17.
Steve Curnow, 14.
Corey DePooter, 17.
Cassie Bernall, 17.
Daniel Mauser, 15.

I was just on a telephone townhall with Daniel Mauser's father last week talking to my constituency about gun violence. Columbine happened in 1999, and 17 years later you can hear the pain in that father's voice about that death.

Matt Kechter, 16.
Kelly Fleming, 16.
Isaiah Shoels, 18.
John Tomlin, 16.
Lauren Townsend, 18.

All were cut down just as they were beginning the prime of their life.

Then the Aurora movie theater 4 years ago, July 20—4 years ago. Have we had one hearing since then, Mr. Speaker? Not one. Not one. Not one vote, not one hearing.

Jonathan Blunk, 26.

A.J. Boik, 18.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Jesse Childress, 29.

Gordon Cowden, 51, a father protecting his kids in that theater.

Jessica Ghawi, a reporter.

Navy Petty Officer Third Class John Thomas Larimer, an expert in cyber security for the Navy.

Matt McQuinn, 27, died protecting his girlfriend.

Micayla Medek, 23.

Veronica Moser-Sullivan, 6.

Alex Sullivan, 27, again, saving his girlfriend.

Alex Teves, 24.

Rebecca Wingo, 32.

We can't keep this up. We want a vote. We did something unprecedented last week by having a filibuster in the House, which turned into a sit-in, to make our voices heard that this can't keep going on.

We all had a good friend, Gabby Giffords, shot in a mass shooting in Tucson, Arizona, 5½ years ago. Have we had one hearing? No. Have we had one vote? No.

We are asking for two things, Mr. Speaker, two votes. That is it. It is common sense: no fly, no buy and universal background checks. We are not going away. This subject is not going away. We want a vote.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, once again, we are on this floor, many of us just asking—just asking—Congress to do its job, just asking Congress to act.

Just a few minutes ago, an American woman was standing right here on the

steps of our Capitol—your Capitol, America—and she was talking about how she has never talked publicly about the incident that took her 10-year-old daughter's life, about a man who should not have been able to buy a gun.

He went online and bought a 9-millimeter handgun. He came to her home, broke into the backdoor and said that he was going to kill her. She ran for her 10-year-old daughter to flee from this man, and in the process, she was shot, and so was her daughter. She told the gruesome story about how her daughter died in her arms—her 10-year-old little girl.

But, ladies and gentlemen, that is the story of 32,000 families every year in our great Nation. Many of you may be thinking: Well, I live in a small town somewhere where everybody knows each other; that is not going to happen.

I am sorry. It happens everywhere.

Some people might think: Well, that just happens in the big cities like Chicago.

I am sorry, ladies and gentlemen, it happens in every ZIP Code around the country.

We are less safe today, ladies and gentlemen, than we have ever been in America. Today, there are more weapons—firearms—in America than there are people. More than 320 million Americans live in our great Nation, and there are more than 320 million guns across America.

There are reasons why we are less safe today than we have ever been before in America, and it is not because of terrorists. It is because Congress refuses to act.

Let me give you an example.

In 1996, the United States Congress banned the Centers for Disease Control from studying gun violence and also said that you will not—you shall not—give our best minds in our greatest universities the grants they would need to actually find out why are so many people dying. What are the reasons why that is happening? So Congress refuses to be informed. Congress literally, on this issue, has chosen to remain ignorant on purpose, and that contributes to 10-year-old little girls who die because a man went online and bought a gun and there were no background checks.

Most Americans believe that, for God's sake, a background check is sensible. Why not? But yet Congress refuses to have a vote on the floor of this House so that we could debate that issue and then vote it up or down.

Every Member of this House who runs for office utters the words, "public safety is my number one issue." I do, and so does every person who runs for office. Every person who gets elected to this House of Congress gets elected for a 2-year term. That means that, in the time that we get sworn in on the floor of this prestigious House, by the time we run for office—and if we are fortunate enough to get elected again—

more than 60,000 Americans will die due to gun violence in those 2 years.

That doesn't make sense. I would hope and think that we are electing people to do sensible things, to do things the right way, and to do things that are right for America that will keep us safe. All we are asking for, ladies and gentlemen, is to have a vote on sensible laws that would help keep our streets safer.

I announced on this floor that I am now a grandfather. It is such a beautiful feeling. But in my lifetime, my children's lifetime, and now in my grandson's lifetime, our streets are not safer.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's demand that our Speaker allow a vote on sensible gun legislation in this House.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago today, I sat down right there on this floor next to JOHN LEWIS. Gathered around were House Democrats demanding a simple demand: that we have a vote on two bills that would make our streets safer from gun violence.

Last week when I went home, I stood with hundreds of people on Federal Plaza in Chicago demanding the very same thing. We sat down as we stood up for gun safety.

Right now, hundreds of people are outside, some standing on the steps, 91 of them wearing orange T-shirts, representing the average of 91 Americans killed by guns every day in the United States of America.

I am from Chicago, and just last night, NBC News ran a story on gun violence in Chicago, titled, "City Under Siege." Over the Fourth of July weekend, 50 people were shot in Chicago. Three of the victims were children, including two young cousins, 8 and 5 years old, who were shot while celebrating with their family. On one street, someone put a handmade sign that read, "Don't shoot kids at play."

The stories of children caught in the middle of the ongoing gun violence epidemic are seemingly endless.

Just last week, D'Antignay Brashear was walking down the street in Chicago with her 4-year-old son, Kavan, when he was shot in the face. Speaking about the shooting the next day, D'Antignay said: "He was with me. He was holding my hand." She thought he was safe.

We cannot accept the status quo when children are unsafe walking down the street holding their mother's hand.

Kavan survived. But his mother said: "How am I going to explain to him when he looks in the mirror and sees his face?" I wonder, how do we explain to Kavan and his mother that this House refused to take action to prevent this from happening to him or to any other child?

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Inaction in the face of these daily tragedies is simply not acceptable anymore.

Chicago and Illinois are trying to respond to this crisis, but we need Federal action. Chicago has increased its police presence. Law enforcement takes an illegal gun off the streets of Chicago every 75 minutes. Illinois has enacted reasonable gun violence prevention measures.

There is no way for Chicago or Illinois to keep up with the influx of guns that are coming from across State lines. Sixty percent of the firearms used in Chicago gun crimes come from out of State. Most come from just one State: Indiana. The bloodshed in Chicago doesn't start with the pull of a trigger; it starts when the gun is purchased without necessary precautions.

In Indiana, no license or permit is required to purchase a gun. There is no registration of weapons. There is no waiting period to purchase a gun. There are no restrictions on assault weapons. Any individual can take advantage of the lack of gun violence prevention laws in Indiana, and they do. Individuals purchase firearms at gun shows with no background checks at all and drive them back to Chicago, across the State line, where they wind up on our city streets.

No State can address the gun violence epidemic alone. We need Federal action to require background checks on all gun purchases. Universal comprehensive background checks will keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and the severely mentally ill. Universal background checks will not stop every gun death, no—no single piece of legislation, not all the legislation in the world—but they will certainly help. They will save lives.

We simply can't stay silent any longer. Each day, eight people are shot in Chicago, the American people are demanding action, and it is time that the House listened to them.

Speaker RYAN, call the bills. Maybe they will pass and maybe they won't. The American people want to see what we are doing here on the floor of the House to make sure that no more children holding their mom's hand crossing the street are shot again. Give us a vote.

LIFT THE RELOCATION BURDEN FROM MILITARY SPOUSES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support our military families.

Beside our Nation's brave service-members are strong families that remain resilient through countless relocations and deployments. Military spouses wear their own patches of service and share a true sense of duty to

our country. They sacrifice a great deal throughout the constant moves and the unknown, all while supporting their husband or wife in uniform.

These spouses are often employed in professions that require new licensing for each new location, such as teachers and nurses—vital occupations in a military community. These dedicated spouses must be allowed to maintain their hard-earned professional licenses and certifications as they relocate.

That is why this week I am introducing the Lift the Relocation Burden for Military Spouses Act. Military spouses serve, too, and my bill will help maintain employment continuity and greater predictability for them and their families.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

VOTE ON NO FLY, NO BUY AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as we started what is commonly referred to as "our 5 minutes," the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) talked about a proposal that he would like to bring forward to this body. We wish him well in that. He also wondered aloud why it would be that Democrats are so interested in bringing two commonsense proposals that he feels might fail—because it is our constitutional responsibility to the citizens that we are sworn to serve and represent.

Speaker RYAN has said: "We will not duck the tough issues. We will take them head on . . . we should not hide our disagreements. We should embrace them. We have nothing to fear from honest disagreements honestly stated."

The Speaker is right. He is an honorable man.

He met with JOHN LEWIS and myself last evening. JOHN LEWIS is the conscience of the House of Representatives and, I dare say, the soul of this Nation. The Speaker and JOHN LEWIS engaged in a conversation that was reverent in its tone and respectful. We stated, as no one better than JOHN LEWIS can, with great clarity about what is happening all across the Nation—the catastrophic loss of life due to gun violence and the utter frustration on the part of people on this side of the aisle and, frankly, families and people all across this great Nation, simply asking for the dignity of a vote—our constitutional responsibility.

The Speaker did say to us and asked aloud in a quandary, not as a deal or not as any rationale, but today there is an important bill, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, authored by TIM MURPHY, a Republican, supported by Democrats who worked together. Democrats would have done more and felt the bill could have been more comprehensive and better funded.

The important thing is that the Nation wants to see us move forward.

We said to the Speaker we would take this message back to our caucus. And I say, appealing as Lincoln would, to the better angels of your side, as we embrace this issue today and support this effort bipartisanly, think long and hard about joining us. There has to be more than five of you on the other side who will come with us and support commonsense legislation. Background checks that are fundamental that law enforcement knows are what we absolutely need to assist in this goal of making sure that we keep this country safer are what is required.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that in the midst of our disagreement, in the midst of our dissent and continued presence on this floor, to articulate our deep feelings and commitment to the citizens we are sworn to serve, you will permit that the majority will allow a vote to take place on this floor which will demonstrate to this great country that this United States Congress can work. It will start today. It will happen when that bill comes to the floor. This side of the aisle joins with you to get an important piece of legislation passed and adopted as it relates to the mental health crisis in this country.

As DIANA DEGETTE said, it should not be considered a substitute, but what it should be considered is a step that we can work together in a common cause. It is what the American people expect from us. We should give them no less. Minimally, we deserve a vote, a vote on no fly, no buy and a vote on background checks.

VOTE ON NO FLY, NO BUY AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) for 2½ minutes.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, Omar Mateen should not have had access to a gun, yet he walked into the Pulse nightclub and murdered 49 people and injured many more.

Syed Farooq and Tashfeen Malik should not have had access to guns, but were able to buy several weapons, which they used to kill 14 people in San Bernardino.

Gerald Villabrille should not have had access to a gun, yet he shot two police officers in Fremont, California, early last month. That is in my district.

These aren't isolated incidents. Rather, they represent an epidemic in this country. With most epidemics, we immediately set about trying to find a cure, or at least a treatment. But with gun violence, we have settled for moments of silence. Well, enough of that.

A couple of weeks ago, Democrats got together and said, Enough is enough. We took to the House floor to demand House Speaker RYAN and Republican leadership bring bills that would counter this epidemic to a vote. In response, Speaker RYAN called our efforts to get a vote a stunt.