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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.

Eighty-five percent of Americans support no fly, no buy gun legislation and more than 90 percent support universal background checks. Yet, Speaker RYAN has refused to bring these two measures up for a vote, shutting out the voices and views of the American people. He is opposing popular commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, you have the power to allow people to take the vote on the floor. Mr. Speaker, you have the power to make sure that people in this country will be safe with commonsense laws to prevent gun violence.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 26 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend James R. Shaw, Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant unto those gathered, representing all people of this great Nation:

Knowledge to pursue the good when the outlook seems dark;

Wisdom to vote for what is best for all;

Courage to choose the unpopular, but better;

Boldness to go where creativity has never gone;

Love to care for the poor and needy;

Faith to step forward and lead the misguided;

Understanding to provide for what is truly needed;

Mercy to forgive those who have transgressed;

Hope for a prosperous future as opportunities unfold;

The eyes of a child to approach life's work with diverse wonderment;

Ears to hear the still small voice of God;

Hands to set free the persecuted and the oppressed;

A sense for those things hidden which may prove dangerous;

And a vision of joy for all languages and cultures.

In Thanksgiving for Your providence, we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING JAMES R. SHAW

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce to my colleagues our guest chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives today, Reverend James R. Shaw. Pastor Shaw serves the Agnus Dei Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

After working for a Fortune 500 company in the IT management division, Reverend Shaw graduated summa cum laude from Concordia University in Wisconsin and proceeded to obtain his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Reverend Shaw accepted a call to Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois, in February 2008. He is now serving as missionary at large on behalf of the United Lutheran Mission Association at Agnus Dei in the Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg area of Virginia.

He has gone on to serve congregations as a pastor, currently serving a small startup, Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia. He also serves as VP of administration, CIO/CTO, and professor of church history and ethics at Walther Theological Seminary, Decatur, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Agnus Dei Lutheran Church is a church that is indeed alive. Reverend Shaw and the entire church family minister each day through worship services, daily prayer, and by serving those in need through ministries that support families by providing grief and crisis counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to welcome Reverend Shaw, his wife, Peggy, and the rest of his family who have joined him today. May God bless his family and may God bless the church family at Clearwater's Calvary Baptist Church as well as our country today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am so excited to rise today to congratulate a small university of 10,000 students in Horry County, South Carolina: Coastal Carolina University.

Coastal Carolina may be small in size, but it is huge in achievement. CCU has had a couple of remarkable achievements in the last several weeks. You see, Coastal Carolina is the alma mater of 2016 U.S. Open champion, Dustin Johnson, and the home of the 2016 NCAA World Series champion, Coastal Carolina University Chanticleer baseball team.

After falling behind in game one, the Chants came back to win the final two games in a nail-biting best-of-three series. The Arizona Wildcats were an admirable opponent and came to play, but the perseverance, dedication, and true love of the game carried the Chants to victory.

Year after year, the Chants field remarkable athletes in every sport, and their achievements are often oversized. But this year's Chanticleer baseball team ran the table, and when the last pitch was thrown in Omaha, they brought the national title home. Not only is this the first NCAA title for CCU baseball, it is the school's first national title in any sport.

I want to recognize a few players who hail from the Seventh District of South Carolina: infielder and pitcher, Jordan Gore; first baseman, Kevin Woodhall, Jr.; and the all-star designated hitter, G.K. Young.

Of course, this team's success wouldn't be possible without the leadership of head coach Gary Gilmore and his remarkable coaching staff. A graduate of CCU himself, Coach Gilmore has led the Chants baseball team for 22 successful seasons.

This national title is a win for all the players, the coaches, CCU, and all fans across South Carolina. Congratulations, Coastal Carolina University. Go, Chants.

THE NRA HAS SPOKEN

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, on the Fourth of July in my district I held a sit-in at a local movie theater to declare our independence from the NRA.

The gun lobby doesn't have a single vote in this House. Or does it have 247?

I ask that question because we can't even get a vote on the floor—just a vote—to prevent suspected terrorists who can't buy a plane ticket in the United States, but they can go out and buy a gun, no questions asked.

The NRA has spoken. Only a bill that would require the FBI to establish by