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□ 1215

BRING THE BILL UP FOR A VOTE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker and Members, earlier this morning, hundreds of survivors of gun violence and victims of gun violence gathered out in front. Catherine Bodine from Ohio told us a story about how she was wounded and her daughter Samantha was murdered.

That murderer couldn't legally buy a firearm because he was a felon. He couldn't pass a background check. So he went online, found the gun, bought it, and wounded Catherine and murdered her daughter.

H.R. 1217 is a bipartisan piece of legislation with 186 coauthors. It is bipartisan and it is pro-Second Amendment. Ninety percent of the American people believe we should expand and strengthen background checks and close those loopholes, a loophole that allowed that murderer to kill Samantha.

Mr. Speaker, please bring this bill up for a vote.

CONGRATULATING CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL LADY WARRIORS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Calhoun High School Lady Warriors on winning back-to-back Illinois class 1A State softball championships. The team, which finished the season with a 40-2 record, defeated Princeville by a score of 3-0 on June 4 to secure its second consecutive championship.

In addition to their State title, the Lady Warriors set team and individual softball records for the entire State of Illinois. They were the first softball team since 2010 to win a State championship after earning 40 wins, and the first class 1A team to do so.

During the team's championship run, junior pitcher Grace Baalman broke two Illinois High School Association softball records. She now holds the record for the most strikeouts in a game, with 39 strikeouts in the 17-inning semifinal game and most strikeouts in a season, with 589.

The Lady Warriors are setting a standard for athletic excellence in Calhoun County. In addition to the consecutive State softball titles, Calhoun High School's girls basketball team also won a class 1A State championship this spring.

Congratulations to this group of student athletes on another championship

season, and I hope to have the opportunity to congratulate them on a softball championship three-peat next year.

PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the millions calling on Congress to protect the American people.

It is impossible to ignore the terrible reality that gun violence is just far too common in this country. The most recent shooting in Orlando, the deadliest mass shooting in our history, is a tragic reminder that Congress has yet to take action to protect the American people.

That is why, 2 weeks ago, I and a number of my colleagues sat down on the floor of this House to stand up and say that we have had enough. That is why I went home to Michigan and stood with my own constituents back home to call for commonsense gun action.

It is simple, simply requiring that a person who is on the terrorist watch list, too dangerous to purchase an airplane ticket, should not be able to walk into any shop and buy a gun at any time, for any purpose. It is also a commonsense provision the American people support.

We should close the loophole on background checks so that all weapon purchases are subject to a background check, rather than bringing false bills written by the NRA.

It is far too long. We need to act. I call on Congress to act.

WIOA AND THE CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, passage of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was an important step for the millions of Americans who are looking for work and for the employers who have job opportunities that remain unfilled due to the skills gap.

In a nine-county region in North Carolina, the Centralina Council of Governments and Centralina Workforce Development Board are utilizing the new law to foster a modern workforce that local businesses can rely on to compete.

WIOA funds have been used to develop an innovative online career search tool that matches the region's students and job seekers with in-demand careers, needed skills, and local education. They have also been used in the Centralina region to provide skills development for in-demand jobs, placement for dislocated workers and career advisers, and business services representatives through local NCWorks Career Centers.

I applaud the work of the Centralina COG and the Workforce Development Board and am pleased they are making the most of the modern workforce development system provided by WIOA.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 3 weeks since 49 innocent people were shot to death in Orlando. From Orlando to Oregon, Americans are saying enough is enough and demanding that Congress take meaningful action to prevent gun violence.

This week, Congress should close the loophole that allows convicted felons, domestic abusers, and terrorists to buy guns without a background check. Congress should dedicate resources to the Centers for Disease Control to study gun violence. It is a public health crisis. Congress should take steps to keep deadly, military-style weapons out of the hands of dangerous people.

Enough is enough. We have lost too many children, too many mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, coworkers, friends, and neighbors. It is long past time for Congress to take meaningful action to save lives.

Let's do what 90 percent of Americans want us to do. Let's pass the bipartisan universal background check bill today. Enough is enough.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOE BUSSONE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of longtime Sycamore, Illinois, resident Joe Bussone, who passed away on June 14 at age 89.

Bussone joined the Navy after high school and served on three different landing ship tanks in the Pacific during World War II. He was proud of his country and believed it was an honor to serve its people.

Following the war, Joe went to Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and then joined General Electric as a product engineer. In DeKalb, Bussone ran his own business and was known for promoting the efforts of local nonprofits, including Family Service Agency, local Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, the Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and others.

At the intersection of Elm and California, he would often sell poppies and other items to raise money for local charitable causes. In his honor, the city named a nearby alley Joe Bussone Boulevard. As a commander at the local VFW post, Bussone always encouraged his fellow veterans of all generations.

A respected community leader and loved by the family he leaves behind, Joe's humble service will be missed.

GUN VIOLENCE SIT-IN

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I brought our historic gun violence sit-in back home to my district in Los Angeles to give my constituents a chance to make their voices heard. Over 100 people joined me to demand action from this Congress. Many of them had messages for you, Speaker RYAN, and I promised that I would bring their stories back to Washington and make sure that you heard them.

Shannon Ross stood with tears in her eyes at our sit-in, holding a photo of her cousin, as she explained that she had been shot and killed just blocks away from where our event was held.

Sarah Wirtz, whose niece was killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, talked about the painful decision her sister had to make, deciding whether to bury her daughter with her favorite stuffed animal or keep it to remember her by.

A war veteran from Compton told the crowd that, even though his son was shot and killed 24 years ago, he still cries every day.

Nora, a mother from San Pedro, said that she lives in fear of her son being shot because he is gay.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on you to listen to the stories of the people in my community and communities across this country. Empathize with the pain they feel every day, and allow us to vote on real solutions to prevent gun violence.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge passage of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which Congressman TIM MURPHY introduced into Congress. I am a proud cosponsor.

Federal mental health programs are a patchwork of antiquated programs across many agencies. Jails have become de facto mental health facilities. As a caregiver to a family member with a mental health diagnosis, I know how difficult finding proper treatment can be.

The country is also experiencing an epidemic of drug use, closely related to mental health disorders. It is time we recognize these problems for what they are: diseases creating a public health emergency.

Mr. MURPHY's bill creates a leadership post at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Among other provisions, it removes legal barriers to families trying to help loved ones and provides incentives for more mental health professionals to join the field. It authorizes State grants and requires better data analysis.

Last year, for the first time in a decade, the U.S. death rate rose due to increased drug abuse and suicide. To turn the tide, I urge my colleagues to vote for the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, every day, 170 felons, 50 domestic abusers, and 20 fugitives are prevented from buying a gun after a background check raised a red flag.

Unfortunately, loopholes allow buyers to circumvent background checks at gun shows and over the Internet, which represents 40 percent of all gun purchases. This practice is neither safe nor smart. It is not fair to responsible gun buyers or sellers.

Closing these loopholes has broad bipartisan support. In fact, 90 percent of Americans—and 81 percent of Republicans—support background checks for all gun purchases.

Congress can and should do more to prevent gun violence. Background checks can keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals, fugitives, and people under investigation for terror activity.

It is time for a vote on this common-sense and bipartisan measure. Let's close these loopholes and keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

IMMIGRATION POLICIES HURT AMERICANS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, two recent reports demonstrate the degree to which Federal immigration laws are not enforced by this administration.

A new study by the Center for Immigration Studies shows that almost 1 million illegal immigrants have been ordered deported but remain in the country. The administration doesn't seem to care. A second report found that the administration refuses to take the steps necessary to send criminal immigrants back to their countries of origin. As a result, thousands of dangerous criminal immigrants are released into our neighborhoods; one-third commit additional crimes, including murder and sexual assault, against innocent Americans.

Our borders are not secure. One-half million people come into the U.S. illegally every year. But the administration, instead of enforcing laws, wants to give amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. The immigration policies of this administration continue to hurt Americans.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Auburn, Washington, March 31, 2013:

Nicholas Lindsay, 25;

Lorenzo Duncan, 23;

Antuan Greer, 21.

Suwanee, Georgia, July 22, 2015:

Jerry Manning, 75 years old;

Rebecca Manning, 37;

Jacob Smith, 9;

Jared Smith, 8.

Baltimore, Maryland, January 23, 2013:

Deshaun Jones, 15.

Chattanooga, Tennessee, January 23, 2015:

Demetrius Davis, 19.

St. Louis, Missouri, January 25, 2013:

Terry Robinson, Jr., 28.

Cedar Bluff, Alabama, November 16, 2015:

Sylvia Duffy, 71;

Clara Edwards, 68;

Pamela O'Shel, 48.

Jonesboro, Arkansas, May 3, 2014:

Crisanto Islas, 38;

Richardo Lopez, 31;

Floza Davila, 12;

Brayam Davila, 10.

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FIDUCIARY RULE

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, 33 percent of Americans have no retirement savings. This is why it is so difficult to understand why the Department of Labor recently finalized a "fiduciary rule" that will harm the ability of Americans, especially those of modest means, to save for retirement.

By imposing new and needlessly burdensome standards on financial experts who provide investment advice to Americans, the "fiduciary rule" will price many retirees out of the market, causing a "guidance gap" which will lead to Americans saving less money or worse, not saving at all. We can't allow this burdensome rule to wreak havoc on the financial future of American citizens.

I am proud to stand up for low- and medium-income Minnesotans who are trying to save for retirement today by voting to prevent the implementation of this misguided rule. Despite the President's veto, I remain committed to preventing this rule from harming the futures of everyday Minnesotans.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, in my district, we gathered with survivors of