

The murders of Yajaira and Ethan were completely senseless, but they are not rare. Every day, 91 people are killed because of gun violence. In the United States, you are more than 10 times likely to die because of a firearm than in any other developed country.

We have a problem, a problem that isn't going to be solved by simply putting our heads in the sand. It is time to stop this silence. We aren't going to solve this. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to have a discussion about it.

REMEMBERING PENN STATE STUDENT MADISON HILL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 19-year-old Madison "Maddie" Hill, a student at Penn State University, who, sadly, passed away after a long battle with cancer last week.

Madison was not originally from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. In fact, she was a native of York County, but she was no stranger to Penn State University even before she started classes there as a student.

Following her cancer diagnosis, Madison benefited from the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, or THON, the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, which raises funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer.

Upon enrolling in Penn State, Madison worked to provide that same support for other cancer patients as a volunteer and family relations co-chair with THON. She was also a member of the university's Blue & White Society.

I join the entire Penn State community in mourning the loss of Madison and offer my thoughts and prayers to her family and friends.

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FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY SHOT IN ALTADENA

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, I woke up to the news that, overnight, a 4-year-old boy in my district, in Altadena, California, became one of the latest victims of gun violence.

Salvador Esparza III was sitting on his front porch with a family friend when a car drove up, fired at least 13 rounds, and drove off, leaving two bodies. Hours later, we finally heard the tragic news. Little Salvador was dead. I was heartbroken.

Now, I know the doctors did everything they could to save his life. But what are we doing in Congress? Nothing. Another life cut short, another family torn apart, another day of silence from Congress.

The NRA tells us the solution is more guns. Well, we already have more guns than any other country in the world, and it is not working. Having more guns would not have helped 4-year-old Salvador. But we could have.

Enough is enough. We must pass no fly, no buy and we must pass universal background checks.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, this week marks Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week.

This is a good time to consider the threat that invasive species pose to all of our districts. Northern Michigan's economy depends on the Great Lakes and our beautiful outdoors. Invasive species represent a direct threat to our way of life.

Even before I came to Congress, I was working on invasive species issues. I live on an inland lake, and we had a really difficult invasive weed get out of control. I have been working for years with my neighbors to control it, so I know just how difficult, and important, it is to get local buy-in for this fight.

Volunteers throughout northern Michigan are working right now to attack invasive species on the ground. State officials are working to educate the public on how we can lessen the chance of spreading these invasive species.

These efforts are in addition to the great work in my district by professionals at institutions like Northern Michigan University and the Hammond Bay Biological Station.

I hope this week we will bring further attention to this fight and help Congress to focus more resources on this issue.

ADDRESSING THE URGENT NEED TO PASS NO FLY, NO BUY AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to stress the urgent need to pass legislation to keep our communities safe from those with evil intent and who wish to harm innocent Americans.

I am a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, and I believe we must uphold the tradition of my home State of New Hampshire for responsible, law-abiding gun ownership. But as we saw in Orlando, it is far too easy for individuals with evil intent to get ahold of firearms and target innocent American lives.

That is why I strongly urge my colleagues to pass legislation to ban those on the terrorist watch list from purchasing guns. What is more, we must

increase background checks to prevent tragedies like the one in my home State of New Hampshire in 1997, when an incredibly disturbed man fatally shot Judge Vickie Bunnell, two State troopers, and a newspaper editor. Individuals like this should not be given access to lethal weapons. Rather, we should give access to mental health treatment.

Let's put aside party politics and do what is right to keep our communities safe.

NETWORKS' COVERAGE OF ORLANDO ATTACK BIASED

(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, the Media Research Center recently issued a report highlighting the three major news networks' slanted coverage of the Orlando terrorist attack.

The Center found that ABC's, NBC's, and CBS' broadcast network programs "flooded their shows with statements favoring gun control over gun rights by a ratio of 8 to 1."

The Orlando attacker was a radical Islamic extremist who pledged his allegiance to ISIS before committing the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil since September 11, 2001. Instead of focusing on gun control, the liberal national media should tell the American people the full story about the Orlando attacker's radical Islamic views as the cause of these killings. Not a single gun control measure in Congress would have prevented his actions.

GUN LOBBY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, gun violence permeates every aspect of our lives, from the streets of Chicago to law enforcement officers to Congress. Everybody is affected by what is going on. But we can do something about it by passing two bills that we have been talking about: the no fly, no buy and universal background checks. Neither is a solution to the entire problem, but both are good steps.

The reason we haven't done anything is simple: the \$15 million a year gun manufacturing industry. And by preventing action here through their campaign donations and Capitol Hill lobbyists, they are controlling the discussion.

When I can't act, when you can't act, this House is being controlled by the gun industry. We—all of us, on both sides of the aisle—are looking to blame each other when the real culprits are the gun manufacturers.

REPLACE OBAMACARE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, “Do Democrats really realize how difficult it has been on working-class Americans to finance ObamaCare?”

This question was asked at a town-hall with a Democratic nominee by an Ohio woman who saw her premium more than double, from \$490 a month to \$1,081 a month. The answer she received? Just keep shopping on the exchange until she finds a better deal.

For the millions of Americans who continue to see their costs skyrocket, this is not an acceptable answer. From losing coverage, soaring premiums, and excess regulations, this system is simply unsustainable.

Rather than propping up a failing system with temporary, costly fixes, let's replace it with the patient-centered policies that actually work. That is what Republicans are proposing to do. One with more choices, not mandates, one that increases flexibility in coverage, spurs competition so rates will go down and not up, and puts doctors and patients, not D.C. bureaucrats, back in charge of healthcare decisions.

These are just some of the commonsense ideas Republicans are advancing, and they really do represent a better way for people's choices.

ObamaCare has not, is not, and will not work. Let's start giving people more choices and the answers they deserve.

KEEP AMERICANS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge Speaker RYAN to bring commonsense gun violence prevention legislation to the floor this week.

Justice will never be served for the victims of Tucson, Aurora, Newtown, Charleston, San Bernardino, and Orlando as long as this body refuses to act and once again accepts the status quo.

I support the Second Amendment and the right of Americans to own firearms, but I believe it is the responsibility of this body to ensure effective laws are in place to keep all Americans safe from gun violence. Congress did nothing after 20 children were fatally shot in Newtown in 2012, and nothing following what happened in Orlando, where 49 innocent people were murdered.

Congress must pass legislation that will require comprehensive background checks and close the gun show loophole. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Thompson-King legislation. We must make progress in gun safety and mental health awareness and support gun safety lock laws.

PRAYERS FOR BEN CRAIG

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Craig, a longtime community leader in Overland Park, in my district, who is, sadly, battling liver cancer. Ben is known around town as the “Grandfather of Overland Park” and “Mr. Johnson County.”

As a founder of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, he helped develop and expand Johnson County Community College, a crown jewel in the metro area. As a member of our Rotary Club, Ben has set the bar pretty high, with 52 years of perfect attendance.

Ben truly embodies our Rotary motto “service above self.” Whether it was raising money for the college, Harvesters, or for one of my family's favorite destinations and landmarks in Overland Park, the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, he encourages others to step up and be part of our community and to give back.

I consider Ben a mentor and friend, and I am grateful to know him. His impact will be felt for generations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saying a prayer for Ben and his family in these hard times as he fights against this horrible disease.

VOTE ON COMMONSENSE LEGISLATION

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Massachusetts has enacted some of the most comprehensive gun violence prevention laws in the Nation, including universal background checks.

Thanks to these commonsense reforms, Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates of gun deaths in the Nation. Nevertheless, lax gun laws in other States make us a net importer of firearms, and we are certainly not immune from the tragic impacts of gun violence.

Americans have a right to be free from violence in our own communities, in our homes, in our schools, in our churches, and in our workplace. But it is clear that the States cannot do it alone. Congress must do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill. You can't know if someone falls into one of these categories without a background check.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents sent us here to cast a vote on their behalf, and that is what we should be doing. Let us have a vote on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that allows background checks for all gun sales.

WHERE THERE IS HELP, THERE IS HOPE

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today, there are over 11 million Americans struggling without proper treatment and care for mental health illnesses.

Our system is riddled with inefficiencies, as various agencies patch together different programs with little to no coordination. Because of this massive failure, patients far too often end up in the criminal justice system or on the streets, because the services are just not available.

This week, Congress took decisive action to fix this problem by passing a bill that I helped introduce with Representative TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, 422-2. Our bill will genuinely save lives and improve the quality of life for families all across this Nation.

The bipartisan Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act is a perfect example of what we can accomplish when we set aside partisan differences and get to work for the people that we represent. This bill prioritizes treatment to proactively prevent tragedy, emphasizing programs and resources that focus on getting patients the care they need.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill takes mental illness out of the shadows of ignorance, because we know that where there is help, there is hope.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I joined my colleagues in an historic sit-in on the House floor, demanding action on gun violence in the wake of yet another mass shooting. Since then, I have heard from hundreds of Rhode Islanders who, like over 80 percent of Americans and a high percentage of gun owners themselves, support our efforts for commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands and to address this public health crisis.

Frustratingly, sadly, and inconceivably, Republican leaders in this Chamber continue to ignore the demands of the American people and, most especially and sadly, continue to ignore the pleas of so many victims of gun violence and their families.

Republicans trot out old, tired arguments, saying that we oppose the Second Amendment, that we oppose due process, that backgrounds checks are ineffective. Mr. Speaker, these assertions are simply not true. But rather than allow an open debate and a vote, Republicans continue to follow the playbook of the gun lobby.

But, Mr. Speaker, we will not allow silence to fill that void of leadership.