

water infrastructure in Flint and across America so this tragedy never happens again. And, again this week, Republicans blocked an amendment on the Interior-Environment bill to help the families of Flint.

Now Republicans are heading to a 7-week recess without doing their jobs, standing up for the health and safety of the American people.

I AM DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will recess for a 7-week district work period. Of course, I look forward to going home to Oregon to spend time with my family and meet with my constituents, but I am deeply disappointed that the House is going into recess without taking meaningful action to keep our communities safe.

It has been 1 month since 49 people were gunned down in Orlando, almost a year since 9 people were killed at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, and 3½ years since 20 children and 6 educators were murdered in Newtown. Yet Congress has taken no action to make American communities safer from gun violence.

I am disappointed that we are going back home without passing the bipartisan, commonsense, comprehensive background-check bill that is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans.

We need to fund efforts to combat Zika and help people in Flint, Michigan, and across this country who do not have access to safe drinking water. Our constituents are counting on us to keep them safe, and they deserve so much better than this congressional inaction.

□ 1445

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, every day, 91 Americans lose their lives to gun violence. Americans are fed up with Republicans' dangerous obstruction of bipartisan, commonsense gun violence legislation. House Republicans won't even allow a vote. They won't even allow a vote on the gun violence prevention laws.

Instead, we are leaving Washington, led by the empty House that you see on the Republican side, for almost 2 months, for the longest summer congressional recess in 60 years, abandoning the people who put them in office.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to provide some form of balance and relief for all those who have been victims of gun violence across this country.

We, my Democratic colleagues, have received overwhelming support across this country not only for gun enforcement from our faith leaders, but the families of those who lost lives to this epidemic of gun violence in this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for action. And the time for action is now.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I cannot believe it. I cannot believe that the Republican Members of Congress would leave Washington, the Nation's Capital, for 7½ weeks without taking a single step to respond to the real suffering, the real pain, the real hurt, the real despair of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much hurt, so much hate, so much violence. We have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to do something about gun violence. Too many of our sisters and brothers have suffered. Too many have lost their lives. They have lost too many of our children, too many of our mothers and fathers, too many of our friends and neighbors.

Where are the leaders? Do you have any courage, Republican Members of Congress? Where is your leadership?

It is a disgrace, it is a shame that you would leave Washington and not do anything about gun violence.

ZIKA FUNDING

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, a little over an hour ago, we finished voting. Right now, most of my Republican colleagues are leaving Washington for the longest summer recess in 60 years. Many Americans will be surprised to hear this. There are so many issues we have yet to address.

Do my Republican colleagues actually think we have earned this break?

We are well into mosquito season and Congress has yet to provide meaningful emergency funding to battle the spread of Zika. In the United States, we already have seen 560 cases of Zika in pregnant women and 7 babies already born with birth defects.

My Republican colleagues are leaving Washington without providing any aid to help the thousands of children suffering lead poisoning in Flint, Michigan. My colleagues are taking a 2-month vacation without lifting a finger to act on lifesaving, commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

God forbid there will be another mass shooting in the next 2 months. The American people will have a sick feeling knowing that Congress did nothing to try to prevent it.

The American people deserve better than that. We did not earn this recess,

and I urge my Republican colleagues to cancel their vacations until we tackle these issues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, here in the House, the majority decides the schedule. Right now, that is the Republicans. We have met for 74 days, and now we are leaving until after Labor Day. It is unbelievable.

What haven't we done?

We have not closed the loophole to prevent gun violence or passed a bill to keep from selling assault weapons to people on the terrorist watch list. That is incredible. Maybe some people aren't surprised because of our suspicion that the NRA owns the Republican Party.

What is even more astounding is the lack of funding for Zika. We passed a measure that was half of what was requested not by the President, but by the Centers for Disease Control, the scientists. We turned our backs on their request and, incredibly, put into the measure a requirement that you can't provide birth control.

Don't you think that women who are facing the Zika virus and who want to postpone pregnancy because they don't want to have a child who is disabled should be able to get birth control?

HONORING RODOLFO PINON

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that the Republican leadership chose to adjourn the House without working to keep Americans safe from gun violence, lead poison in their water, and the Zika virus.

However, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rodolfo Pinon of Blythe, California, an outstanding leader, husband, and father in my district.

Rodolfo is a humble man with a deep and rich passion to serve others. He gives voice to the voiceless and has improved communities and changed many lives.

With Pueblo Unido, he has installed water filters to 25 mobile home parks, where too many communities face the health threat of drinking water contaminated with arsenic. He has paved 38 mobile home parks in the community, improving the quality of life of so many residents. He has helped countless hardworking and poor families find affordable housing. He is loved and is a friend and inspiration to many he has mentored.

Unfortunately, Rodolfo was recently diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. His family and loved ones are going through this terrible illness. My message is that we hope Rodolfo and his family find strength and comfort

knowing that, as a community, we appreciate and thank him. We also appreciate his signature cowboy hat, boots, and big silver belt buckles.

The best way to honor Rodolfo is to practice his selfless love for others, justice, and service to the community.

GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my severe disappointment about congressional inaction on the gun violence epidemic that is plaguing our communities.

Once again, we are breaking for recess without a vote on any gun violence prevention measures. This time, we will be leaving for 7 weeks—the longest period of time in recent history.

Every moment that we don't act, we flood even more streets with dangerous weapons, we equip even more criminals with guns, and we risk losing even more lives to senseless gun violence.

So for another 7 weeks, the American people have to wait for action. For another 7 weeks, Congress is neglecting its duty to the American people. For another 7 weeks, we are putting our families, friends, and loved ones at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that sometime within the next 7 weeks you will find the courage to listen to your constituents in Janesville and call up a commonsense gun violence measure for a vote.

GIVE US A VOTE

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern as the Republic majority has allowed the House to head home for 52 days without addressing the gun violence epidemic, providing resources to respond to Zika, or doing anything about the Flint water crisis. And that is just to name a few issues.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents elected us to focus on their needs: growing our economy, creating jobs, improving education for our children, improving and ensuring safety and security in their communities.

Now, we are about to leave town without handling at least these three incredibly concerning issues. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to see reason, work with us to find a path to compromise, get back to doing their jobs, and give us a vote.

SILENCE OF INACTION

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, we Democrats are here to act. The Republicans leave here with stony silence: the silence of inaction on Zika; the silence of inaction on the needs of Flint; the silence of inaction on the no fly, no buy and background checks.

Years ago there was reference to an American silent majority. Today it is the Republican congressional majority that is silent. What the vast majority of Americans want is action on Zika, action on Flint, and action on gun violence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that Republicans are adjourning the House early rather than staying to work on issues to keep Americans safe, whether that is giving us a vote to prevent dangerous people like terrorists from obtaining a machine gun or keeping toxic water from flowing in Flint, Michigan, or addressing the Zika public health crisis.

Zika really hits home for me because I represent the Tampa Bay area in the State of Florida. It was January when we had the first cases of Zika announced in Florida. It was February when public health experts, including the CDC and the President, said we need an emergency bill to develop vaccines to prevent birth defects and diagnose cases. It was March when we had hearings where public health experts expressed a sense of urgency of the Congress to act.

But here we are in July, 6 months later, with almost 300 cases in Florida, and 43 are pregnant women. We had the first case in Florida of a baby born with microcephaly. It is very serious. Those babies can't see, they can't hear, they can't walk.

I am proud of my Democratic colleagues who have remained in the Capitol to work.

I am asking: Where are the Republicans? Why did you adjourn early rather than stay here to work to keep the American people safe?

NRA: NO REPUBLICAN ACTION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, once again, here we are. Democrats are here, ready to roll up their sleeves and work to do what we need to do for the American people.

I have been to a briefing on Zika. We have seen what the whole issue around gun violence has meant for this country.

Why aren't we here to do the work of the American people? Why aren't we here to answer their call?

We have the issue in Flint.

Why would we leave Americans in the lurch without clean water to drink? Why?

My colleagues on the other side have good will, but why can we not do the things we need to do for the American people?

It is unconscionable that we have adjourned and they have left town. It is irresponsible. The people have sent us here to do the work of the people. These things are critical to moving this Nation forward, and we cannot get anything done because of NRA: No Republican Action.

□ 1500

ZIKA REPRESENTS A SERIOUS THREAT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there is no disputing it, Zika represents a serious threat to global health and security. It is irresponsible and dangerous that Republicans plan to leave Washington for a 7-week recess without providing the resources to combat this threat.

The Zika virus is spreading explosively throughout the Americas, with active local transmission in 31 countries and territories. More than 3,600 Americans, including more than 600 pregnant women in 45 States, D.C., and three U.S. territories, have already been diagnosed with the Zika virus, and more transmission is expected.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of if we will have local transmission of the Zika virus in the Continental United States, it is a question of when.

Despite that risk, Republicans refuse to provide the resources to address this public health crisis. Instead, they have insisted on saddling potential funding with irrelevant and damaging partisan riders.

Make no mistake about it, without swift action, we are gambling with the health of our Nation. The time is now for Congress to work in a bipartisan fashion and provide the necessary funds to protect individuals across this Nation.

LAMEDUCK CONGRESS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans shot out of here like mice when you cut the lights on; so busy to get to their convention, their Titanic convention in Cleveland, where they will nominate Donald Trump to be their next President, all the while, leaving the people of Flint, Michigan, up the river without a paddle.

Then, on top of that, to take no action on funding Zika and to pass a bill, but no funding, is like sending soldiers into war without a weapon or, worse