

yet, sending them to war with a gun that they didn't know didn't have any bullets in it.

It is really criminal that my friends from the other side of the aisle would leave America in the lurch, leaving us only 17 legislative days when we return in 7 weeks to do the work of the people, only 17 days left before the lameduck session. And, really, I believe that this Congress has been operating as a lame-duck since it began.

CONGRESS IS SILENT ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has left this Chamber early without addressing a public health crisis in this country called gun violence.

The Republican Congress may find comfort in remaining silent, in doing the bidding of the gun lobby, in turning its back on the American people. But our inaction disserves our constituents and the tens of thousands of families who have lost their loved ones to gun violence. Millions more worry that they and their families are not safe, and if mothers can't sleep at night knowing their children are safe from harm, neither should this Congress.

I challenge my colleagues who have left here early to be silent to engage their communities when they go home. Find the courage to do the right thing and reject the gun lobby's heavy hand.

Let's bring the will of the American people to this body and pass commonsense legislation. Do not be on the wrong side of history. Do not bet against the American people. Stand with us to end this deadly silence.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, the House adjourns for a 7-week recess, and House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days without any action to address the many issues before our great Nation. Yet, we find ourselves trapped, trapped in congressional inaction, with Speaker RYAN telling the American people: See you in September.

Trapped because Republicans have failed to bring legislation to the House floor that would address our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Trapped in the height of summer because House Republicans have failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

Trapped, and the residents of Flint are still waiting for Congress to do something to help them.

Mr. Speaker, we are trapped with doing nothing Republican leadership. We should not be leaving today for 52 days in the face of so many pressing needs.

We should stay here. We should work together. We should move legislation that protects the American people. It is what our constituents expect and, most importantly, they deserve that. We should not be trapped.

IT IS TIME TO PUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE FIRST

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to do their jobs, pass legislation that moves our country forward.

House Democrats have led sit-ins here on the floor. We have led vigils on the floor, and we have demanded action at press conferences right outside the House floor. But despite it all, no real legislation has been passed on the House floor.

Speaker RYAN refuses to do the work that we were all elected to do. Ninety-seven percent of Americans have spoken. They want gun reform, not a 6-week vacation for their Representatives.

For 52 days, the Republican-led Congress has done nothing. Instead of passing commonsense legislation for gun reform, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of providing adequate funding for the Zika health crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation. Instead of addressing the Flint water crisis, House Republicans are going on summer vacation.

It is unacceptable. I am disappointed. It is irresponsible leadership. I call on Speaker RYAN and Congress to come back in session, finally do the work that we were elected to do.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to put the will of the people first.

CONGRESS HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in this wonderful House with so many of my colleagues to speak forcefully to the issue of unfinished business that is continuing to mount.

The silence in the House now will be deafening for 52 days. The paralysis caused in the lives of too many shows a gross sense of insensitivity and disrespect.

We are asking for action on several bills. We don't think that we should leave for these 52 days and, worse yet, close down session days before it was scheduled to close.

We have a Zika virus crisis that is gripping the lives of many, and it is starting to have its presence felt in these United States, issues that will cost us tens of millions of dollars per child because of an inaction to address the Zika virus.

We have a crisis in Flint that has not been responded to, where we have walked away from families and their needs for the given need of drinking water.

I have a bill, the Aqua bill, that we need to address on this House floor. Let's do our business. Let's not walk away from our responsibilities. Let's be sensitive to America. No vacation if we have not done our work.

CRITICAL UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress has earned its longest summer recess in more than 3 decades. I mean, this session we have done so much.

Take, for example, our quick response to the Zika health crisis. Oh, wait, not that one.

Well, what about how Congress provided emergency funding to the people of Flint, Michigan? Oh, wait. Scratch that. Republicans blocked that measure as well.

But at least we were able to pass commonsense gun violence prevention laws that 9 out of 10 Americans favor.

Mr. Speaker, I think I brought the wrong list up here because the GOP majority blocked those bills from coming to the floor as well.

The reality is the Republican majority has done little to nothing to deserve this 7-week recess. Hardworking Americans elected their Members of Congress to do their job on behalf of the American people. It is shameful and embarrassing to leave town with these critical items unfinished.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SETH RICH

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues and lament that we are going home without addressing these very difficult issues.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Omaha community lost a treasured son. I stand before you today to honor the memory of 27-year old Seth Rich. Seth was returning home early Sunday morning when he was the victim of a tragic and senseless shooting just 1 block from his Washington, D.C., home.

Seth had dedicated his all-too-brief career to public service that began in high school and blossomed in college before he set out to change things for the better in our Nation's Capital. While his life was cut short, his legacy and work to expand access to voting for millions of Americans will not be lost.

Seth's family and friends remember a passionate young man out to do good works from whatever platform he was given. A Nebraskan through and through, although he now called D.C. home, Seth could be found cheering on

the Husker football team and Creighton basketball team.

No one deserves this kind of senseless violence, and the thoughts and prayers of all Nebraskans go out to Seth's family.

CONGRESS HAS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT

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

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, when we were elected to serve, we were charged with a responsibility, the responsibility to give our constituents a voice in Washington. They are crying out for action on the public health emergencies that are plaguing our country.

And if we do not act, why are we here?

We need to vote on legislation that makes an impact on the epidemic of gun violence in our country. The American people are demanding a vote, and we have a moral obligation to take action. For each of us, it is personal. In every community in this country, the effects of gun violence have left scars that will never heal.

Congress also needs to act immediately on Zika. We must fund the President's request that was made 5 months ago. We must not put American women in the predicament of choosing whether or not they should get pregnant or, if they are already pregnant, wondering whether or not their baby is okay.

We are also facing a nationwide opioid epidemic that is sounding alarms that we must heed. We are all seeing this in our districts.

And the lead poisoning of thousands of children in Flint, Michigan, and across our country has not disappeared. Over 500,000 children every day are affected by lead poisoning.

We were elected to vote on issues working families care about. The Republican majority left town, abdicating its responsibility and leaving the American people at risk.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days. That is 52 days that we won't be taking action to address public health crises like Zika and the Flint water crisis. Time and time again, House Republicans have blocked meaningful emergency funding needed to protect the health and safety of American families.

And even as Americans continue to lose their lives every day, House Republicans still have not answered our call for a vote on bipartisan gun violence prevention legislation. We have a responsibility to protect the safety of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we answer the call of communities across this country who are demanding action on commonsense solutions like strengthening our background check system and ensuring we keep guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists.

Families are counting on us. Let's do our job.

CONGRESS HAS COMPELLING UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last month I sat with parents who lost children to gun violence. There was such sorrow in the room.

"When I lost my son, I lost myself," one mother said.

Another said: "Until we get these guns off the streets, the cycle is going to continue."

As I listened to their stories, I heard again the tragic ways that gun violence so abruptly takes lives and devastates families and communities every single day, and I took to heart their message that too many weapons are too easily available.

Preventing weapons from getting into the hands of terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill is common sense and essential to our security, and there are bipartisan bills in Congress right now that would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be leaving town with such compelling unfinished business. We should be voting on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

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ZIKA VIRUS

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Zika virus—there is no vaccine, and there is no treatment. It kills the weak and the frail. The fancy term is it is also teratogenic. It disrupts regular embryonic development—teratogenic. It has infected 1,000 Americans—200 pregnant women. It is spread by mosquitos that are just emerging from their winter dormancy.

What are we doing about it? We are going home for 7 weeks.

As this body has descended further and further into dysfunction, I have heard a lot of rationalizations: "Congress just waits until the last minute"; "they have to see real consequences before they take action"; "let the body work through regular order."

I reject them all. For the second time in 3 years, this body has had and faced a devastating, urgent public health crisis.

What has been our response? Missing in action.

We acted too late with Ebola, and now, with Zika, we are not acting at all. Democracy can't work if we don't work.

I don't yield back, Mr. Speaker. I don't yield now. I don't yield in September. I don't yield in November, and I don't yield in December until we do our work.

Come back. Fight this disease.

SALVADOR ESPARZA AND WORK LEFT UNDONE

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, at just 4 years old, Salvador Esparza already had a reputation for lighting up a room whenever he walked in. His aunt called him "a sweet boy with a passion for soccer and Spiderman."

But now pictures and memories are all that remain. Last week, Salvador was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting on his own front porch in my California district. Like him, 91 people are killed by guns each day.

But people like Salvador deserve to be more than a statistic. That is why I joined 350 people in front of Pasadena City Hall last week at a vigil to call for an end to gun violence. They are hurting.

Now is the time for Congress to take action to save lives. But, instead, Republicans decided to end session early and push lifesaving work on guns, Zika, and the Flint water crisis aside.

The American people elected us to do our job. They deserve better.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE CUT AND RUN ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, here we are, House Democrats, right here in the House, ready to work. Where are House Republicans? Well, they have escaped for 52 days without taking care of the Nation's business.

That's right, escaped—you know, left, fled, absconded, disappeared, departed, dodged, bolted, bailed, ducked out, burst out, shipped out, made off, cut and run. That is what House Republicans have done.

But here is what is left undone: the opportunity to protect our children and families from the spread of the Zika virus, from a concern to a public health crisis; the opportunity to provide clean drinking water for over 9,000 children in Flint, Michigan, poisoned with lead.

This is serious. In fact, it is sobering. In the next 52 days that the House Republicans have escaped, 4,732 American men, women, and children will lose their lives to gun violence, including 67 who will be killed with a gun as a result of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker,