

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Maria and Fred Wright traveled to Washington to mark the 1-month anniversary of the murder of their son in Orlando. They wrote a beautiful op-ed:

While in D.C., we don't want just thoughts or prayers from Members of Congress. We want them to look us in the eyes and tell us: How will they work to make our Nation safer against gun violence? How will they perform their constitutional duty to "insure domestic tranquility" and "promote the general welfare"—some of the main roles of government according to our Constitution? How will they work to stand up to the extremist gun lobby and urge their fellow Members to do the same?

Unfortunately, for Maria and Fred Wright, and for all of us, they would have to run really fast to look into the eyes of Congress as our colleagues fled down the stairs to run out for a 7-week vacation and to do nothing. Their son, Jerry, is one of 33,000 Americans who will lose their life to gun violence every year in this country.

We urged our colleagues to bring to the floor something, do something in the face of this carnage. And we stay here as Democrats. The cameras can't stay in the room. The Republican side of the room is empty. They are gone. They are home with their family and friends. Maria and Fred will never get to be with their son Jerry.

They didn't do anything to protect us from gun violence, to protect us from the dangers of Zika, to protect us from lead poisoning. Our most sacred responsibility is the health and well-being of those we serve. Shame on our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Have they no decency to bring these bills to the floor and do their job?

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, we have common ground on the Republican and Democratic side of the aisle. There is a problem of gun violence. Innocent people—children in Newtown, workers in San Bernardino, worshippers in Charleston, and five very brave police officers in Dallas protecting the right of citizens to protest—all have been killed.

We have got to do something. We know that. We have a disagreement about what. But should we have a disagreement that we not even debate what is the right response as a policy to protect innocent lives from future gun violence? That is the question.

We can debate the Second Amendment. We can protect gun owner rights. But we can't hide from the responsibility that we chose to accept when we ran for office and asked people to entrust us with their vote in this Congress, that we won't even discuss, we won't debate, we won't have a committee hearing, we won't have a bill on the floor. That is what is really unacceptable.

Do you know what? We have a disagreement. Put some bills on the floor. We vote. Our voters then get to hold us accountable one way or the other.

□ 1545

JUST AN ORDINARY SUNDAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was just another Sunday in December 2006 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Greg Key was in church, with the pastor delivering a sermon—a little sweat on his brow. It was just another Sunday when Greg's cell phone buzzed. He stepped out for a call that changed his life.

The voice on the other end told him that his 19-year-old daughter—the shining light of his life—had been gunned down as the innocent victim of a drive-by shooting.

On this ordinary Sunday, like on every other day of the year, 91 families got devastating news that a loved one had been killed by a firearm. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, it was just an ordinary Sunday.

TAKING ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my extreme concern that you have dismissed this House without taking action on the critical issues that face our Nation, especially gun violence.

I rise on their behalf—for the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence all over the country and in my own community. I rise for these mothers and fathers who wake up every morning, worried about the safety of their children and communities, who will continue to wait with no action due to your decision.

On an average day, as has been stated eloquently, more than 90 Americans are killed by guns. How many more lives will it take until we come to terms with this reality? How many more days must go by until this House takes even one small step in the right direction?

Every day counts. Every life counts. The American people deserve better. The decision to adjourn is shameful. I urge you to get this House back to work to address the gun violence epidemic so we can finally act on the call of "not one more."

CRISES DEMAND ACTION

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in this House work awfully hard at doing nothing. We face many crises—crises that demand action. We have a crisis with regard to the Zika virus. We have a crisis in Flint, Michigan, where people have been poisoned by lead-contaminated water. We have a gun violence crisis in this country where massacres have become the new norm.

What is the Republicans' response? Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing.

The only concrete action they have taken is to adjourn the House so they can go on vacation. We shouldn't be going on vacation until we do the people's business.

Shame on the Republican leadership for adjourning this House and not taking up gun safety legislation, not addressing the crisis in Flint, Michigan, and not funding the crisis regarding the Zika virus. The people of this country deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I call on you to bring the House back, and let's do our work.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of 5 police officers and injured 11 more officers and civilians in Dallas. The ambush on the Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11 attacks in our country. Yet House Republicans are leaving Washington today, for a 52-day recess, without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic that is happening all across the Nation.

The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question: How many more innocent Americans will have to lose their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence?

The answer, in my opinion, should be "none." No more Americans should have to lose their lives. There are a number of proposals in Congress that are available today for the House Republicans to bring to the floor for a vote. This legislation is available now.

Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of five police officers and injured eleven more officers and civilians in Dallas last week. This ambush on Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11th attacks.

Yet, House Republicans are leaving Washington today for a fifty-two day recess without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic happening across our nation. The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question of how many more innocent Americans will have to lose

their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence. The answer, in my opinion, should be none. No more Americans should have to lose their lives.

There are a number of proposals in Congress available today that House Republicans could bring to the floor for a vote. There is legislation available now to bolster the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. There is legislation available now to reinstate a federal ban on assault weapons. There is legislation available now to study the costs of gun violence. Yet, none of these bills have seen the light of day on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to do the people's bidding and work cooperatively with Democrats to pass meaningful and comprehensive gun reforms so that we can finally put an end to this senseless violence.

POLITICS RATHER THAN POLICY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, late Governor of Tennessee Ned McWherter used to say: If you don't want to work, you shouldn't hire out.

Speaker RYAN, if you don't want to work, if your team doesn't want to work, you shouldn't have run for office and hired out.

We are taking off for nearly 8 weeks of vacation when we should be here dealing with gun violence; when we should be dealing with the voting rights extension, which we have not done with elections coming up; when we should be dealing with the Zika virus, which threatens the health of our people; when we should be dealing with the Flint water crisis. We are leaving for 8 weeks of vacation.

This Congress started 8 years ago with terrible political priorities. Rather than policy, it was politics. MITCH MCCONNELL said their job was to see to it that Barack Obama didn't get re-elected. What did we do this week? We had hearings about Hillary Clinton and emails. That is politics. We didn't have questions of the U.S. Attorney General about voting rights or gun violence.

If you don't want to work, don't hire out. Ned McWherter was right, Speaker RYAN. You shouldn't have come here without being willing to work.

GIVE US A VOTE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, do you remember when you were kids in school, and there was this big chart, and you learned how a bill becomes a law? It told you that somebody proposes an idea, and if it gets a majority in committee, it moves on. Then it gets to the floor of the House, and if it gets a majority, it moves on to the other body. Then, if it gets a majority, it goes to the President's desk, and the President signs it.

Take that chart and throw it away because that is not what happens here. We can't get a vote on the floor on gun control. We can't get the people's will listened to. Whether it is gun control or Flint, Michigan, or the Zika virus or anything, we can't get a vote.

All we are saying to the Republican leadership is to give us a vote—up or down, win or lose. The American people want to know where their legislators stand. This is a pressing issue. For us to ignore it is shameful and disgraceful.

This young man, Seth Rich, was just murdered—a young man here who worked in politics. We owe it to his life, to his remembrance, and to all of the other victims of gun violence. We need an up-or-down vote on the floor of the House.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago next week, a guy dressed up as the Joker barged into a theater in Aurora, Colorado, and killed 12 and wounded about 58 others. One of those killed was a young sports reporter named Jessica Ghawi—4 years ago.

Have we had one hearing on gun violence? Have we had one vote on gun violence in 4 years? No. The Republican majority has blocked every effort at just reasonable, sensible things like background checks, or, if you are a terrorist, you don't get a gun. Have we had one vote? Have we had one hearing? No, but people are dying—5 officers last week and 49 people in Orlando the month before that.

We need a hearing. The Republican majority has taken off for 7 weeks. These things have to be addressed. We are not going away. The subject is not going away. It is time for a vote. It is time for a hearing. It is not time for a 7-week recess. Jessica Ghawi deserves more than that.

THE POWER IS IN THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am embarrassed that Congress is going home today for 2 months after having done nothing about this outrageous use of guns in America. We are going home because it is an election year. We have 2 months to be with our constituents.

I hope that all constituents will approach their elected officials and ask them, their Members of Congress, and particularly the Republicans who are holding up this vote: Are you going to vote on this in September when you come back? Are we going to enact these laws? Because, if they are not, you can withhold their vote. You have the power. The power is in the people.

Let's take back our country. Let's ask every elected official, school board

member, city council, and water board, which have jurisdiction over real estate: What have they done to enact gun legislation?

California, which is the State I am from, has taken those actions: we have banned assault weapons; we require background checks; we have waiting periods before you can buy ammunition. We have done more than any other State. Guess what? The courts have upheld this.

We can do this. This is what elected officials are asked to do—to fix things that are broken and, particularly, in a crisis.

You, the voter, take back this country. Make your elected officials respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the viewing audience.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 686

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 686.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONGRESS SOLVES PROBLEMS THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Members have been coming forth all afternoon, talking about the fact that our constituents are feeling great anxiety. They feel and they look to Congress, and they think there are some issues here that we can deal with in our communities.

We are going to be having some very serious and deep conversations about some of the concerns that we have, but there are a few issues that this House—the people's House—needs to deal with while our constituents are dealing in their own houses with some of the concerns that are addressed by education, by poverty, by guns.

There are too many guns in their communities. We have been hearing repeatedly that we can close the gun show loophole here in Congress, in the people's House, and we should. We can close the fact that there are people who can fly today who are on no-fly lists. We can change that in the people's House.

We have to get on this, and that is why it is discouraging when there is time—when there are hours and minutes and days—that we are not working on these issues. People look to us. They want us to solve those problems that local government cannot solve alone.