

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we watch the horrific scenes of destruction from Hurricane Harvey and Irma, I must say that I have been taken back in time.

I came to Congress 20 years ago in the aftermath of serious flooding in my hometown of Portland, Oregon. I was Portland's Commissioner of Public Works at the time, and we had to scramble to try and prevent flood damage into our central city.

Since that time, I have spent a great deal of time and energy focusing on what we can do to solve problems of repetitive flooding, having Federal policies in place that makes it less likely that people will be in harm's way. Sadly, over the course of over 20 years, we are very slow to learn these messages.

First and foremost, we continue to provide payments to properties that are repeatedly flooded. When we started over 15 years ago on a program for reforming the flood insurance program, one of the best examples that we used for the need for reform was a home in suburban Houston that had flood insurance payments 17 times in less than 20 years. The total was over \$1 million for a piece of property that was less than \$120,000 in value. We would have been far better off buying it at a generous price and returning it to its natural state, saving the taxpayers money and minimizing future flood damage.

Such is the case when we looked at what was going on with Hurricane Katrina, where we have problems in Louisiana over the years, a city, New Orleans, that is slowly settling, and has engaged in development in some areas where people, like in the lower Ninth Ward, were repeatedly subjected to flood damage.

But what we have done too often in the past is we have put people back in harm's way. We shouldn't be spending Federal flood relief to put people back in the same situation and having a problem with rising tides because of global warming, changing weather patterns that are going to cost us more money and put more people at risk.

There are some simple steps. First, we ought to get rid of the deficit for the flood insurance program. There is no way that premiums are going to make up a deficit of over \$24 billion that is going to be even bigger after the bills become due for Irma and for Harvey. Let's stop pretending that.

Wipe the slate clean, like we did with the so-called doc fix, and get down to solutions. Part of the solution is to make sure that people pay actuarial rates for flood insurance. Pay what it has cost. Disguising that cost gives people a false sense of security and reduces that economic incentive to get out of harm's way, while it makes it less likely that the program will be self-supporting.

Have adequate, accurate flood insurance maps. We ought to immediately move towards accurate flood maps so that people get the right signals. Now,

actuarial rates, actual flood insurance maps will cause some disruption and financial problems for some people, so this should be phased in over time; it shouldn't happen immediately. But those pricing signals should be clear. We should stop subsidizing some and sending inaccurate signals for others.

We ought to invest in mitigation. We save about \$4 for every dollar we spend flood-proofing areas, making them less dangerous in the future. These are simple, commonsense steps that have been suggested by experts for years.

We do nobody any favor subsidizing them living in harm's way; allowing local governments to evade their responsibilities to make sure that people don't build in dangerous places; and putting first responders, police, firefighters, and utility workers at risk as they rush in to try and save people in dangerous situations.

Over the next 3 months, we have a unique opportunity to finally learn these lessons, save taxpayer dollars, save lives, save property, and get on with the business in a way that is more sustainable. Given the problems we are facing with climate change in the future, these problems are only going to get worse. We ought to start now to solve the problem.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NICHOLAS LAFOND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Nicholas Lafond, a young man from Miller Place, in New York's First Congressional District, who, just a couple weeks back, was taken from us far too soon due to the disease of addiction.

A bright, intelligent, and talented young man, Nick was loved by all who knew him. He was an honor student who was accepted to Stony Brook University with the intention of pursuing a career in education.

However, from a young age, Nick struggled with anxiety, which, sadly, led him down the path of heroin addiction as a teenager. He fought this addiction tirelessly with the love and support of his family and friends, and he sought several forms of treatment. Tragically, just last month, Nick lost his battle with addiction at the age of 25.

On August 31, I attended a press conference in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day, where I met Nick's parents, Francine and Leonard, and discussed their son, who had been laid to rest only 2 days prior. The courage of these heartbroken parents, to come to this event and talk about Nick so soon after his passing, is absolutely incredible.

As a father, the thought of losing a child is unbearable. Through my discussion with Mr. and Mrs. Lafond, you could feel their commitment to fighting this terrible epidemic so that no

other parent would have to go through their experience.

Shortly after our discussion, I received a letter from the Lafonds detailing Nick's story and outlining so many of the steps we can take as a community to make drug addiction a thing of the past. From their words, you can feel their passion for this cause.

Though it is too late to save their son, Francine and Leonard have dedicated themselves to easing the grip of addiction upon our society. Their selflessness and bravery in the face of unthinkable tragedy is truly beyond compare.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here and share Nick's story with you and the American people and to discuss this critical priority. Every single day, Americans like this young man fall to drug addiction. It is one of the absolute greatest threats we face as a nation, and it will not subside unless we continue to act.

Here in my home county of Suffolk, heroin and opioid abuse is an especially deadly and destructive scourge. There is no one solution to ending the drug epidemic. This is a complex issue involving all levels of government, our community leaders, law enforcement, schools, churches, and everyday Americans.

We must form a collaborative effort to discuss and develop localized community-based solutions to tackle this crisis by increasing treatment, recovery services, and education. Simple incarceration is not and will never be the lone answer to this crisis.

In the last Congress, I was proud to have cosponsored and help pass into law the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, which provides a total of \$8.33 billion in funding over 5 years to help combat the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic and funds many initiatives on the local level. While this is a step in the right direction, it is not enough to truly end this plague upon our Nation.

As Francine wrote to me in her letter, "To make headway against this awful epidemic, the approach must be multifocal, swift, and forceful. We not only need dollars to be put toward law enforcement and treatment, both of which we know have limited effect, we also need to concentrate on addressing the underlying psychological issues that lead to opioid abuse. These are not drugs one uses to party. They are extremely strong and effective painkillers one uses to escape life. The world is a harsh place for kids today, so much different than when I or even you were young."

The complexity of this issue is unrivaled, and we cannot turn a blind eye to any potential effort. This needs to be a highest priority to resolve. We cannot rest until tragic incidents like what happened to Nick Lafond become a thing of the past.

I would like to read a poem Nick wrote while in rehab, only weeks before his passing, which describes his tragic struggle:

Anxiety is life to me. Mixed with some sobriety; throw in notoriety, this is my anxiety.

Always looking over my shoulder. Will this get better as I get older? Carrying it around like a boulder, this is my anxiety.

Dark holes and deep depression, popping pill after pill in rapid succession. How did I not see the progression? This is my anxiety.

Days to weeks, weeks to months, and months to years, why is my head constantly filled with tears?

Keep a straight face, don't shed any tears; this is my anxiety.

Waking up to go to sleep, climbing this mountain seems so steep. Close to the edge, I'll surely leap. This is my anxiety.

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WOMEN AND CHILDREN LOST BY GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise yet again because Americans are dying in our movie theaters, city parks, on street corners, and in elementary school classrooms. Even our homes and relationships aren't safe.

A new CDC report found that half of all murdered women are killed by a partner or an ex-partner. Guns are their weapon of choice.

Mr. Speaker, the report found that 5,234 American women have been killed by husbands, boyfriends, or exes with guns.

Has this Congress acted? No. Three American women are shot and killed by an abuser every day. Congress does nothing.

This year, 352 Americans have already been lost to gun-related domestic violence. Congress does nothing. Felons buy guns online; abusers get weapons without background checks. Congress still does nothing. Convicted stalkers legally purchase guns in 29 States, yet, still again, this Congress does nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read some quotes from brave women who called the National Domestic Violence Hotline—women in danger, women fearing for their lives, women that this Congress has ignored in order to cater to the NRA.

One survivor said: "Abuser threatened our young child that he would shoot the entire family and maybe others."

Another survivor said: "He never fired the pistol, but he would sit on my chest and point it at my head. He would put it right next to my temple."

The NRA doesn't think there is a problem. They think it is politically motivated and claims victims manipulate "emotionally compelling issues such as 'domestic violence' and 'stalking' simply to cast as wide a net as possible for Federal firearm prohibitions."

Are you kidding me?

Victim No. 103, Amber White, 32.

Victim 104, Korinda Rodriguez, 32, killed on her way to work.

105, Jabria Hall, 23.

106, Lauren Walker, 32.

107, Karen Smith, 53, a teacher. Her estranged husband killed her and her 8-year-old student, Jonathan Martinez.

108, Trini Do, 29, killed with four family members at her son's eleventh birthday party.

109, Kathleen Grimes, 54.

110, April Bailey, 39.

111, Zina Daniel, 42, killed with two others when her abusive and estranged husband bought a gun from Armslist, walked into a spa, and started shooting.

Victim 112, Emily Young, 24. Her husband had twice admitted to domestic violence charges, but he had a gun.

113, Ashley Hicks, 23.

114, Latina Verneta Herring, 35, killed along with her 8-year-old son, Branden, because of a fight over car keys.

115, Lidia Juarez, 37.

116, Fannie McWhite, 61.

117, Tracy Judd, 33, and her 23-month-old daughter.

118, Amber Weigel, 25, and her 2-year-old daughter, both killed because the father didn't want to pay child support.

119, Tania Adams, 41, a mother of three boys.

120, Gladys Tordil, 44, murdered in a high school parking lot in front of her daughter.

121, Karla Ayde-Garcia Arellano, 25.

122, Jitka Vesel, 36, shot at least 11 times by a boyfriend who bought a gun in Washington and drove to Illinois.

123, Rashanda Franklin, 29.

Victim 124, Tammy Mattison, 49.

125, Jennifer Krieger, 44, killed along with her 14-year-old daughter Kelsie.

126, Camille Thompson, 26, murdered with her two young children in the car.

127, Mary Shipstone, 7 years old, shot by her father while at a safe house.

Kate Allen, 43, killed with her two 10-year-old children at a Cracker Barrel. It was her daughter Kerri's 10th birthday.

Courtney Price McKinney, 22.

Maria McIntosh, 19, killed alongside her father and her sister.

Crystal Hamilton, 29.

Officer Ashley Guindon, 28, was also killed responding to Crystal's call. It was her second day of work.

Nalisha Gravely, 19.

Ernestina Lara Chaires, 44, killed while trying to escape her abuser.

Rachel Naomi Peters, 32.

Cara Russel, 52.

Sandra Smith, 42, killed alongside her 15-year-old son Daniel.

Olga Neubert, 37.

Elizabeth Rodriguez, 26.

Tabitha Apling, 33.

Michelle Morris, 50.

Laura Aceves, 21.

Kathy Edwards, 53.

Alejandra Hernandez, 28.

Jamila Odom, 41.

Ashley Hasti, 31, the first victim in a Minnesota-to-California mass shooting that ended on the campus of UCLA.

Maria Guadalupe Sobrevilla, 58.

Joyce Haynes, 41.

Amanda Colley, 36. Her murderer was on probation for violation of the protective order against him.

Larissa Barros, 18.

Mr. Speaker, we failed these women and their families.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of the work Ambassador Nikki Haley is doing to increase transparency and accountability at the United Nations in many ways, but particularly as it relates to the U.N.'s Interim Force in Lebanon.

This Force is tasked with an important responsibility: doing everything it can to disrupt and stop the illegal activities being carried out in Lebanon by Hezbollah, a group that seeks to destroy Israel and that receives funding from Iran.

Part of this responsibility is ensuring weapons are not present near Lebanon's border with Israel. Unfortunately, for too long, the Force was not doing enough to acknowledge the presence of weapons, even as Hezbollah increased its weapons and put them on display for the media.

At the behest of the United States, the Security Council has now agreed to increase the accountability of this Force, an important step for the security of one of our greatest allies, Israel, and for accountability and transparency at the United Nations.

DACA STORIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last week on the east front outside the Capitol on the lawn, I met with a group of DREAMers. DREAMers, of course, refers to young Americans who were brought here as children without proper documentation, but who have grown up in our communities, studied in our schools, and are American in every way but on paper.

The DREAMers I met with, Mr. Speaker, were fasting—fasting to protest the President's destructive decision to end the DACA program that allowed them to register to live and work in the only country they consider to be theirs. They were fasting to encourage us in this House to take action to remedy their situation by enacting a permanent fix, as President Trump has suggested.

One of the young DREAMers, Mr. Speaker, I met was a young man named Diego. He is 28. Born in Mexico, he came here as a young child and was raised in Arkansas. He didn't make a decision to come here. He was brought here by his parents.

Thanks to DACA, he was able to get a job, a driver's license, and pay taxes to support the country he loves. Diego