

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, children and families across the country rely on their leaders in Congress for much more than thoughts and prayers. They need us to take action to keep them safe.

Gun violence in this country is a horrifying epidemic. There have been 18 school shootings in the past 7½ weeks. It is even hard to talk about this.

It is difficult to argue, though, with people who are looking at Congress and wondering whether too many Members in Congress are too close to the NRA and the gun manufacturers. Congress actually passed a law to prevent the CDC from even studying gun violence.

In difficult times, I, too, seek thoughts and prayers from friends, clergy, and family, but this is not stopping the slaughter. I agree with police officers across the country who say: Get the AR-15s out of the hands of dangerous people now. Our children are being massacred in their schools.

Madam Speaker, Speaker RYAN must put bills on the floor to address gun violence or his party will go down in history as the party that blocked solutions to this crisis.

HONORING SHELAGH SWEENEY

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

Mr. FASO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Hurley Fire Department member Shelagh Sweeney.

Shelagh was named Hurley Fire Department's first female Firefighter of the Year. Her service and dedication to her community as a firefighter, EMT, and field training officer for mobile life support services is most admirable.

Her inspiration to join the fire department came from her attendance of a first-aid class during her time at SUNY Ulster. Continuing her education by taking classes at Marist College is a testament to the dedication she reflects with her service to her community.

Shelagh's selfless service to the community, while striving for further personal growth, is greatly appreciated, and I wish her the best in continuing on her journey.

INVESTING IN THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, this week, the President unveiled a budget proposal that would not only endanger the health and safety of the American people and our environment, but also jeopardize the long-term stability of our infrastructure systems.

It completely ignores what we know about climate change, proposing a 61 percent reduction in funding for renew-

able energy research and cutting critical enforcement tools and public safety regulations.

It also lacks the foresight to produce a forward-thinking plan that will ensure a stable and resilient infrastructure future. In fact, it seeks to eliminate essential programs like ARPA-E, which supports early stage energy research and development.

Nationwide infrastructure systems like the electric grid must be updated to anticipate severe weather and climate conditions. We have seen the toll that national disasters take on our electric grid.

Smart planning and investment is essential to ensuring that we have the proper resources to maintain and operate these essential structures.

The President has spoken at length about investing in our infrastructure. Now let's see some action.

WORKING WITH ASIA DURING YEAR OF THE DOG

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, this week commences the Lunar New Year, a time of thankfulness and new beginnings for the United States and many of our Asian partners.

Reflecting upon last year's Year of the Rooster, we have enjoyed tremendous political, social, and economic achievements. Filled with enthusiasm for diplomacy and cooperation, we continue to look to our partners in Asia to promote peaceful international relations.

During the Year of the Dog, I believe that our friends will continue to embody loyalty, honesty, and integrity, working with us to craft mutually beneficial international policies. In turn, the United States will encourage effective diplomatic behaviors among all of our Asian counterparts.

As lawmakers, we have an obligation to protect the interests of the United States, as well as those of our strong allies around the globe, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to work toward policies that will positively shape strong, multinational Asian foreign relations in 2018.

UNDERFUNDING NATIONAL PARKS

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, from the mighty redwoods to the headlands and beaches of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in my bay area, backyard to the ancient sequoias of Yosemite, to the scorching deserts of Death Valley, we know our national parks are worth protecting.

Parks not only protect nature and wildlife but our history, too. And they

are economic engines supporting thousands of jobs. But Donald Trump's dirty budget and infrastructure scam would bulldoze right through this American success story.

Trump is proposing a 7 percent cut to the National Park Service, meaning even less maintenance and visitor services, and a 17 percent cut to the Department of the Interior overall, while giving Secretary Ryan Zinke free rein to continue his drilling spree on our public lands.

These cuts, combined with Trump's ongoing effort to hike entry fees for working families, threaten access to these places that drive millions of visitors to our communities and small businesses each year, while generating hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity.

Underfunding our national parks puts visitor access at risk. We should reject this budget and work together.

ADA IMPROVEMENTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act has played an important role in improving accessibility for many years.

Unfortunately, it is often taken advantage of by dishonest attorneys who file drive-by lawsuits against small businesses in order to get a quick payday. This entails coercing a business owner into paying expensive settlements or legal fees for unintended or technical violations and vague interpretations of the ADA. This practice has risen dramatically. From just 2013 to 2017, ADA lawsuits in Federal courts have increased by 182 percent, and it goes beyond that for many years previously as well.

This practice violates the spirit of the law and hurts small businesses without really improving access. One example, a small business, a minimarket in my district, went through a renovation. They put in a nice ramp there on the front of their business, a concrete structure that had been inspected, and they were working with the county all along. Then, when they were done, someone came and said: This is 1 degree off on incline.

How is a small business supposed to deal with issues like that when the regulators themselves can't even keep track of what they are supposed to be doing? This only benefits corrupt attorneys. That is why I support the ADA Education and Reform Act which will end this shady practice and give property owners a reasonable chance to fix potential issues.

COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, a person sends their child to school and expects that they are going to come home safely.

I am so sad for the grieving families of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. Innocent children—gone in a blink. I am thankful for the first responders, but foremost, my thoughts are with the grieving families, the students, and the teachers affected by this horrific shooting.

We see this carnage over and over again. We know there is no magic solution, but that doesn't mean that there are no solutions. We need more resources for mental health, not tax cuts for billionaires. And, yes, Mr. President, are you listening? We need commonsense gun safety legislation, not these idiotic bills that expand gun usage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HANDEL). Members are reminded to please address their remarks to the Chair and not to a viewing audience.

CALLING FOR SENSIBLE GUN REFORM

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I do not rise today for another moment of silence for Parkland, Florida, for the semiautomatic weapon and shooter who wielded it already silenced 17 Floridians and injured countless others at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Instead, I rise to make their voices heard. I rise to call for action on sensible gun reform. The Parkland shooter likely got his semiautomatic weapon through a private sale or a gun show without a background check, in spite of a record of mental health issues.

It is time to close that loophole. The Las Vegas shooter used a bump stock to convert a semiautomatic weapon into an automatic weapon—which is already illegal. Bump stocks should also be illegal.

Why is nothing happening? In my own home of Orlando, the shooter at the Pulse nightclub was on the FBI watch list. Imagine if we passed no fly, no buy and stopped that from happening.

Now is not the time for silence. Now is the time for action, and now is time for solutions.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTIANA DUARTE

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Christiana Duarte. Christiana attended the Route 91 Festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

She had recently graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in

business marketing. While in college, she interned with the Arizona Wildcats and was a member of the sorority Sigma Kappa. After graduation Christiana worked for the Los Angeles Kings as a fan services associate.

Friends and family remember Christiana as a bright, beautiful young woman who was full of life and energy.

I would like to extend my condolences to Christiana Duarte's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S BUDGET

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, a budget reflects one's values. President Trump's budget shows he values polluters and profits over people.

With the ink barely dry on the Republican tax scam, Trump's budget proposes we pay for their corporate giveaway by gutting public health and environmental programs.

One of the budget's largest targets is the EPA, which will suffer a 25 percent cut. This means cuts to grants that help States like California implement the Clean Air and Clean Water Act. That means cuts to Superfund programs that clean up sites where toxic chemicals from factories and landfills were dumped for decades, polluting the surrounding soil, water, and air.

We simply cannot afford a dirty budget that prioritizes polluters and profits over people.

AMERICAN SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE AT RISK

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this House generally jumps into action once there has been a mass shooting by having a moment of silence. Today we didn't even have a moment of silence because the House knows that those are meaningless acts that don't have any effect on our schoolchildren who have been the victims of 18 school mass shootings this year.

It is shameful this Congress has not dealt with no fly, no buy. If you are on a terrorist list, you can still buy a gun.

It is a shame this Congress passed a law that takes away from individuals who get Social Security who may be mentally ill the ability to buy a gun.

We don't even have studies on what has been happening in trying to protect schoolchildren. It is a shame.

We need to act. American schoolchildren are at risk, and I am ashamed at what this Congress has failed to do: take action.

LET DEMOCRACY PREVAIL ON IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we have 4 legislative days before those protected by DACA will be at risk. The Speaker has said he was going to address this issue. He has not at this point in time.

The Speaker said on 9/23/2010: We will advance major legislation one issue at a time.

He said: We will not duck the tough issues. We will take them head-on.

In that light, I urge the Speaker to put on the floor the three bills that are pending in this House: a clean Dream Act; the USA Act, sponsored by Representatives AGUILAR and HURD, a bipartisan bill; and a Republican bill, the Securing America's Future Act, sponsored by Representative GOODLATTE.

Madam Speaker, let the people's House speak. Let them vote. Put these three bills on the floor, and let the majority rule. That is democracy. Let democracy prevail in this House.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, in June, seven American heroes died on a dark night when a ship collided with an American destroyer, the USS *Fitzgerald*. Among the dead were immigrants from Vietnam and the Philippines, as well as sons of workers who journeyed north from Guatemala.

As one of the sailors who survived explained: You are crammed in with all sorts of cultures on the ship, but when you are on the *Fitzgerald*, you are family.

Just like the *Fitzgerald*, my unit in Iraq included men of many races and religions. We were a family, too, and it made us stronger.

Madam Speaker, what is true of our military is also true of our country. Lots of nations have democratic institutions, plenty of countries have good schools, and all too many, as we know, wield powerful weapons; but what makes America great, what makes America powerful, and what makes America America is that, since our founding, we have thrown our doors open to the world, and we have kept them open to the strivers and the dreamers from every corner of the globe.

We didn't become the greatest, most powerful country in the world because we let in a certain group of people and then slammed the door behind them. No, Madam Speaker, we built this country by making America the only country in the world where anyone from anywhere can accomplish anything.

President Reagan may have summed it up best when he explained that:

You can go to Japan to live but you cannot become Japanese. You can go to France to live and not become a