

For this reason, the State of Alabama and I have filed suit in Federal District Court for the Northern District of Alabama against the United States Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau to require them to exclude illegal aliens when they conduct the 2020 census.

Specifically, the State of Alabama and I challenge the legality of the Department of Commerce's residence rule, which counts everyone, including illegal aliens, in America's population count.

If the roughly 15 million illegal aliens in America—no one knows for sure how many there are—were dispersed throughout the United States in equal proportion to each State's population, then no State would be disadvantaged in congressional representation and this discrimination issue would be moot.

However, the difference in illegal alien population between States is dramatic. According to Department of Homeland Security 2014 estimates, 46 percent of America's illegal aliens live in just three States. California, with the greatest concentration of illegal aliens, estimated at 2.9 million, has roughly four more Congressmen due to apportionment that counts illegal aliens. Reapportionment of House seats and electoral votes is a zero-sum proposition: one State's gain is another State's loss. With an estimated 65,000 illegal aliens, Alabama citizens, and citizens of many other States as well, lose proportional representation because of various open borders policies of some States.

The exact effects of the illegal alien population on the apportionment of Congressmen is complex based on the Method of Equal Proportions formula that is used to minimize the percentage difference in population per Congressman.

But one thing is clear: Simulations of the apportionment process, using current population projections, suggest Alabama is at great risk of losing a congressional seat if the Census Bureau counts illegal aliens.

As with anything in the United States Constitution, the census should be read, understood, and strictly administered according to its original intent. The 14th Amendment protects the rights of citizens to fair and equal representation. Any deviation in this process threatens the right of each American citizen to fair and equal representation in Congress.

We cannot allow a small number of States to cheat the rest of America by promoting illegal immigration and then, as a reward for their lawless conduct, to receive greater proportional representation in Congress and the electoral college.

Mr. Speaker, the question is clear: Should congressional representation be based on the number of American citizens or expanded to include the number of illegal aliens?

I cannot speak for anyone else in Washington, D.C., but for me. And, as

for me, I side with American citizens, not illegal aliens and illegal conduct.

America is a Republic, and the essence of being a Republic is respect for the right of American citizens to equal protection and equal influence over congressional elections.

Any attempt by the Census Bureau to undermine American citizens' equal protection and equal influence over congressional elections must be opposed. That is exactly what the State of Alabama and I are doing by filing this action on behalf of Alabama citizens.

NO MORE MOMENTS OF SILENCE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, Glenda Perkins;

Cynthia Tisdale;
Kimberly Vaughan;
Shana Fisher;
Angelique Ramirez;
Christian Riley Garcia;
Jared Black;
Sabika Sheikh;
Christopher Jake Stone; and
Aaron Kyle McLeod.

Mr. Speaker, those are the 10 names of the people killed at Santa Fe High School in Texas last Friday. Two were teachers; eight were students. All were violently torn away from their loved ones and their pathways to bright futures way too soon.

As usual, the elected officials have expressed that their thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, but we all know by now that more is needed than a moment of silence, because the silence of lawmakers, especially those here in the House of Representatives, kills:

58 killed in Las Vegas, Nevada;
27 killed in Newtown, Connecticut;
14 killed in San Bernardino, California;
17 killed in Parkland, Florida;
4 at a Waffle House in Tennessee;
26 at a church in Texas;
49 at a nightclub in Florida;
6 at a Cracker Barrel in Michigan; and
9 at Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina.

The gunmen—and they were almost all men or boys—had different motives or motivations, including crime, racism, terrorism, revenge, and seeking notoriety, which they got.

And they all had access to weapons and bullets that could kill scores of humans in just moments. For the most part, of the only thing the victims had in common was that they were killed by bullets.

The Washington Post reported that the number of people killed in schools in 2018, this year, is almost double the number of servicemen and -women killed in our military in both combat and noncombat fatalities.

And this coming weekend, just like clockwork, as America honors fallen

servicemembers on Memorial Day, Chicago—my city—will see a deadly toll. Fifty-two people were shot over the Memorial Day weekend last year, and that was actually down from the previous year, 2016, when 71 people were shot in my city.

There will probably be no national special reports or wall-to-wall news coverage, because when 50 or 75 people of color are shot in an American city over a weekend, it barely makes the news; unless the NRA or FOX News use my beloved Chicago and her tough gun laws as a way of giving political coverage to politicians, while failing to point out that the loopholes and weak gun laws in Indiana, Virginia, and other States feed illegal guns into my city.

And we should note that the NRA is now run by someone whose claim to fame—Oliver North—is that he lied to Congress, perjured himself, and sold guns to our country's enemies. And they claim to be on the side of law and order?

So, the result is political paralysis, societal paralysis, and actual, permanent paralysis as the butcher's bill of dead and wounded grows and grows.

When I came here in 1993, we had hope and optimism that we could cut crime and reduce the number of guns on our streets. But despite the drop in crime, all of our efforts to reduce the number of guns on our streets, in our houses, in our schools, and in our churches have been thwarted by the gun manufacturers.

The assault weapons ban, I voted for and worked for, was here until it was killed by politics.

The crime gun bill I wrote would work by reducing the availability and manufacture of the cheap, concealable handguns most often used in gun crimes, but it will never get a vote in this House of Representatives.

See, we have established a school-to-coroner pipeline in this country that will persist until the American people arm their politicians to do something about it. But I fear the profit motive of the gun manufacturers and the politicians they own, got in their pocket, is greater than the will of the American people to take on and tame our runaway love affair with bullets.

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Mr. Speaker, it takes good people without guns working with good people who own guns to keep guns out of the hands of people who will use them to kill other people.

It is not that we do not know what works, because we do. Waiting periods, background checks, trigger and gun locks, restrictions on the sales of guns can all be effective in reducing suicide, murder, and accidental death by firearms.

We are not lacking the way. We are only lacking the will to overcome the deeply entrenched, highly profitable industry that thrives on fear, mistrust, inequality, racism, misogyny, and tribalism.

We cannot afford another moment of silence, because silence kills. What we need is a moment of action to save the American people from killing themselves with American guns and American bullets.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this list of moments of silence observed in the House since the Newtown shooting. It is compiled by the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. There are 43 of them, moments of silence, and nothing done to save the American people from the gun lobby and the NRA.

MOMENTS OF SILENCE OBSERVED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR RELATED TO GUN VIOLENCE

December 14, 2012—May 21, 2018

Date, Topic of Moment of Silence.
 12/17/12, Moment of Silence in Memory of Victims of Connecticut Shooting.
 2/27/13, Chardon 1-Year Anniversary.
 3/6/13, Honoring the Lives of Sergeant Lorán “Butch” Baker and Detective Elizabeth Butler.
 7/19/13, Aurora Remembrance.
 7/24/13, Moment of Silence in Memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.
 9/17/13, Moment of Silence in Tribute to the 12 Navy Yard Shooting Victims.
 1/8/14, Moment of Silence on Anniversary of Shooting Victims in Tucson, Arizona.
 4/3/14, Moment of Silence and Prayer for the Fort Hood Shooting Victims, their Families, and the Community.
 5/28/14, Moment of Silence in Memory of the Victims of the Santa Barbara, California, Tragedy.
 6/9/14, Moment of Silence to Honor the Victims of the June 8, 2014, Las Vegas Shooting.
 6/10/14, Moment of Silence for Victims of Reynolds High School Shooting.
 7/22/14, Domestic Violence.
 7/24/14, Moment of Silence in Memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.
 7/30/14, Moment of Silence for Victims of Clackamas Mall Shooting.
 11/20/14, Moment of Silence for the Victims at Marysville-Pilchuck High School.
 1/8/15, Moment of Silence on Tucson Shootings’ 4-Year Anniversary.
 5/12/15, Moment of Silence In Honor of Officers Liquori Tate and Benjamin Deen of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.
 6/23/15, Moment of Silence For Victims of Shooting at Emanuel AME Church, Charleston, South Carolina.
 7/21/15, Moment of Silence For Servicemembers Killed in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
 7/27/15, Moment of Silence for Lafayette Shooting Victims.
 9/8/2015, Moment of Prayer for Allison Parker and Adam Ward (Roanoke).
 9/10/15, Moment of Silence Honoring Deputy Darren Goforth, Harris County Sheriffs Office.
 10/6/2015, Moment of Silence Honoring Victims of Umpqua Community College Tragedy.
 12/2/2015, Moment of Silence Honoring Victims of Colorado Springs Shooting.
 12/16/2015, Moment of Silence Honoring Victims of the San Bernardino Terrorist Act.
 1/8/2016, Moment of Silence Remembering the Fifth Anniversary of the Shooting in Arizona.
 2/23/2016, Moment of Silence For the Victims of Kalamazoo Shootings.
 3/1/2016, Moment of Silence for the Victims of Kansas Shootings.
 6/14/2016, Moment of Silence for the Victims of the Orlando Shooting.
 7/8/2016, Moment of Silence for the Victims of the Dallas Shooting.

1/5/2017, Moment of Silence to Commemorate Sixth Anniversary of Shooting in Tucson.

1/9/2017, Moment of Silence for Law Enforcement Officer Killed on Law Enforcement Officer Day (*includes same shooting).

1/9/2017, Moment of Silence in Recognition of Victims of the Two Most Recent Tragedies in Ft Lauderdale and Orlando (*includes same shooting).

1/9/2017, Moment of Silence Honoring Law Enforcement Officers Killed in Orlando (*includes same shooting).

2/27/2017, Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Kansas Shooting Victims.

4/5/2017, Moment of Silence Remembering Virginia Tech Victims.

7/18/2017, Moment of Silence Honoring Officer Miosotis Familia and State Trooper Joel Davis.

7/24/2017, Moment of Silence in Memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.

10/2/2017, Moment of Silence in Memory of the Victims of the Attack in Las Vegas.

11/6/2017, Moment of Silence in Memory of the Victims of the Attack in Sutherland Springs, TX.

1/8/2018, Moment of Silence Commemorating Seventh Anniversary of the Shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

1/29/2018, Moment of Silence Honoring Marshall County High School Shooting Victims.

2/26/2018, Moment of Silence Honoring Those Killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

3/13/2018, Moment of Silence for the Three Victims of Gun Violence at the Veterans Home of California-Yountville.

4/25/2018, Moment of Silence for Fallen Gilchrest Law Enforcement Officers.

4/26/2018, Moment of Silence for the Victims and Hero of Waffle House Mass Shooting.

LET US REMEMBER THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, many of us in this House will attend Memorial Day ceremonies over the weekend. I actually had four over this past weekend. I was privileged and honored to be there as we honor those who have died in the service of this great Nation to defend our rights and our liberties.

Observed on the last Monday of May, Memorial Day is one of America’s most solemn occasions. The traditional Memorial Day dates back to 1864, in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, not too far from my home in Centre County, Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. Three ladies decorated the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers, and the custom has continued every year since then.

Boalsburg still puts on a traditional Memorial Day celebration complete with a parade, a community walk to the cemetery, speeches, military enactments, and much more.

On Memorial Day, communities across the country will pay tribute to our fallen veterans who never returned home. Many of us will gather with family members and friends and neighbors as we keep those we lost in our hearts.

So as we raise the Stars and Stripes, as we lay wreaths at monuments, memorials, and cemeteries, let us remember that our freedom is thanks to those who died and served in sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day weekend also marks the ninth year that the National Endowment of the Arts and Blue Star Families begins Blue Star Museums. This program provides free admission to our Nation’s Active-Duty military personnel this summer from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend of 2018.

This is an initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums nationwide, including children’s museums, fine art museums, history and science museums, zoos, and nature centers.

Blue Star Museums are one way our Nation’s museums can express appreciation to our military for their service and share with them America’s cultural treasures. Blue Star Museums also provide a way for military families to feel connected to their community, especially for those families that have recently relocated through a change of station.

Blue Star Families build communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since 2009, Blue Star Families have engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and served more than 1.5 million military family members.

Mr. Speaker, Blue Star Families will be celebrating with every American this weekend as we commemorate Memorial Day in honor of so many who are no longer with us. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

I WILL NOT GO ALONG TO GET ALONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise as a person who loves this country. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a person who refuses to go along to get along. I rise as a person who will speak truth to power and truth about power.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because in our country, our children are being murdered in schools. Our children are prognosticating that eventually it will come to the school that they happen to attend. Our children are concerned about their safety in what should be one of the safest places for them on Earth: the schools that they attend.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, because there are parents who have sent their children to school and never have had them to come home again. I rise because these parents are suffering, because our Nation is suffering. There is great pain within the population.