

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation tomorrow and to continue our work to ensure safer neighborhoods across America.

TRAGIC FLOODING

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight concerned about residents of my district dealing with flooding that claimed one life there and has damaged roads and private property throughout the region. The loss of life during this recent flooding is tragic, and my family and I continue to pray for everyone affected back home.

One group of people deserves to be recognized for the work they do in times of crisis, and they are our first responders and other emergency personnel. When the rest of us are seeking shelter from the storm, the men and women who make up our fire and police departments, rescue crews, and emergency communications professionals are going to work to coordinate a rapid response that will save lives and help limit property damage.

It is appropriate that during these times of disaster we continue to pray for those who are suffering and show appreciation for those who work so hard to protect us.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all my House colleagues join me in doing that.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I am here to tell a story about gun violence that spans multiple generations, and it started in my hometown of Camden, a city in New Jersey.

A tragic event happened in Camden in 1949. Howard Unruh shot and killed 13 people. This event is now considered the first modern mass shooting in our country's history.

During those horrific events that unfolded, a 12-year-old boy hid in the closet as his mother and father were slaughtered. His name was Charles Cohen, and nearly 70 years later in a school in Parkland, Florida, his own granddaughter, Carly Novell, hid in a closet, just like her grandfather did. Carly is with us today to see how true democracy works.

I will end with Carly's words. She said: "This pain shouldn't be generational."

She is right. It shouldn't have happened, and we must do more for our children, for our grandchildren, and for everyone in our communities.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, as you know, this month is Black History Month, and I am taking some time to remember African Americans who have made a difference in the community where I live.

I rise today to honor one of my community's civil rights and community leaders, Mr. Nelson Polite, Sr., of Lancaster. Mr. Polite was one of the early leaders in the civil rights movement in Lancaster in the 1960s. He was a fierce advocate who worked hard to change the unjust policies of segregation.

Mr. Polite devoted his life to the ideals of fairness and justice for everyone, regardless of their skin color. He organized protests against Whites-only admittance at Rocky Springs pool and followed in the footsteps of his father, who helped found the Lancaster NAACP.

Mr. Polite led by example and represented the goodness of our community. He was active in his church and worked to ensure that residents had job opportunities, housing, and overall quality of life.

He served as a Lancaster councilman for 12 years. This month, Black History Month, marks 3 years since he passed away, but the evidence of the change that he fought for is evident in our community. I was proud to count him as a personal friend, and it is my honor to remember him today and, this month, highlight the work that he did.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for two bills that the House will consider this week: H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112. These bills are the first comprehensive gun violence prevention bills to be considered in the House since the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act was signed into law in 1994.

Far too often innocent lives are claimed due to gun violence. Nearly 40,000 people die of gun-related injuries per year.

While mass shootings often dominate the headlines, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the gun violence happening on a daily basis in cities all over the country and even my own hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut. I have lived in a neighborhood where the sound of gunshots in the distance was as normal as hearing church bells, and, as a teacher and a mother, I have seen firsthand how the fear of violence affects our children.

For far too long, Congress has failed our communities by remaining silent on this issue. America is ready for commonsense background check legislation. I owe it to my community, I owe it to my State, and I owe it to the people of Newtown, Connecticut. That is why I look forward to casting my vote in support of H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112.

THE STORY OF MICHAEL COHEN

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

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I guess tomorrow we will find out if there is anyone that Michael Cohen hasn't lied to. We already know he lied to Congress. We already know he lied to law enforcement, lied to the IRS, lied to three banks, and he is going to prison for his lies. So I guess it will be relevant for us to determine: Does he lie to his own family? Does he lie to his financiers? Does he lie to his financiers who are members of his family?

It will be one heck of an inquiry for us because this is someone who has tangled such a web of lies that he is not to be believed. I think it is entirely appropriate for any Member of this body to challenge the truthfulness, veracity, and character of people who have a history of lying and have a future that undoubtedly contains nothing but lies. That is the story of Michael Cohen.

We will see it play out tomorrow, and I for one can't wait to get to the bottom of things and can't wait to get to the truth.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN CALIFORNIA

(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, California's high-speed rail system has broken promise after promise and made false claim after false claim.

I want to commend President Trump for working to pull back the \$928 million that is still authorized, that could be reachable, and turn this money into something that could be useful for more Americans or even for more Californians.

Now, we also need to send a bill to the State of California for \$2.5 billion for the money they wasted for a project that has not fulfilled what was required in the proposition the people passed by 52 percent to 48 percent. The price has more than tripled since then.

We need to focus on doing the transportation projects in the country that would actually help move people in a fashion that they can use.

Governor Newsom was right there with his State of the State speech the other day. I know he knows different.

Let's go ahead and put a stop to this project, put the money back into fixing our highway system or our levee system or our water system in the State of California and not send the bill to the other 49 States of this country that, in good faith, initially sent that as part of the stimulus package. Let's put it into good, solid projects.

□ 1900

BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, it is a shame that the new House majority, instead of fully funding border security, a few minutes ago actually passed H.J. Res. 46, which would reverse the President's emergency declaration that he signed 2 weeks ago that secures our border.

Now, in Maryland, we have a real problem. We are the second most active State for MS-13, which just walks across our border now because we don't have barriers. We have a huge problem, like every State in the Union, with drugs, with opioids that are just walked across our border, which isn't secured. And, Madam Speaker, we have a huge problem with human trafficking.

If this resolution is passed by the Senate, I hope that the President vetoes the resolution, we sustain that veto, and we finally secure our border.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARRIE ANN LUCAS

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today because, on February 24, Colorado and our Nation lost a fierce and fearless advocate, Carrie Ann Lucas of Windsor, Colorado.

A mother, an activist, and an attorney, Carrie practiced family law to prevent discrimination against parents with disabilities. She adopted four children, and her accomplishments centered on her dedication to them. All her children have significant disabilities, and Carrie always ensured that they were loved, respected, and supported in their individual hopes and dreams.

Carrie devoted so much to ensuring her wisdom never stayed with just her but was shared throughout the disability rights community, the legal world, and our Nation. She spoke out strongly and protested each day for the rights of people with disabilities to comprehensive healthcare with dignity and respect.

It is a permanent scar on our Nation that Carrie was lost to the refusal of an insurance company to cover one particular medication, which led to escalating health issues and, eventually, her premature death.

Carrie's activism knew only the bounds of freedom and of justice. She was ceaselessly bold, brave, and selfless.

My thoughts are with her family, and I pray that this body will gain some of the bravery that never faltered in her and use it as an inspiration to ensure that no American goes without healthcare—ever.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the obituary of Carrie Ann Lucas.

OBITUARY FOR CARRIE A. LUCAS

The disability community lost one of its fiercest advocates on 2/24/19. Carrie Ann

Lucas, a disability rights attorney who pioneered representation for parents with disabilities, died after an arbitrary denial from an insurance company caused a plethora of health problems, exacerbating her disabilities and eventually leading to her premature death. She was 47 years old.

Carrie Ann Lucas is known around the state and the country for her strong advocacy.

Carrie Ann grew up in Windsor, Colorado, and had several careers including being a teacher, ordained minister and legal assistant before becoming an attorney. Carrie graduated from Whitworth College in 1994, traveled and taught in Saipan, and then returned to the states to attend the Liff School of Theology. She received a Master's of Divinity with Justice and Peace Concentration from Liff in 1999, but during her time there, became increasingly involved in disability advocacy. After she graduated, she started working as an advocate and later legal assistant for the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, investigating, preparing, and monitoring disability rights cases and providing informal advocacy on a wide range of topics. While there, she was granted a full scholarship as a Chancellor's Scholar at the University of Denver School of Law.

Following her graduation from law school in 2005, she was awarded a prestigious Equal Justice Works fellowship to create a program to combat discrimination that impacts parenting for parents with disabilities. This program, initially started within the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, spun off to be Disabled Parents Rights, one of the only organizations in the country devoted to this issue. She also became a national expert and trainer on the rights of parents with disabilities and, through her legal advocacy, secured decisions upholding and promoting those rights here in Colorado. Most recently she was recruited by the Colorado Office of Respondent Parents Counsel to help set up a program to train other lawyers around the state to replicate the sort of impact she was making.

In addition to these professional activities, Ms. Lucas was an advocate with the disability rights groups ADAPT and Not Dead Yet, speaking, teaching, writing, testifying, and protesting on disability justice and the rights of people with disabilities to healthcare and respect. She was also a talented photographer and cook. Carrie Ann was an activist at heart. She graduated from EMERGE, ran for Windsor City Council in 2017, and was planning on additional political activity. She was chair of Colorado Democrats with Disabilities for the past several years. She was a member of the ADAPT group that protested in Cory Gardner's office and got arrested to help save the Affordable Care Act in 2017, particularly Medicaid. She served on the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado. She was active with Not Dead Yet and fought hard against physician assisted suicide and the notion that life with a disability is not worth living. She demonstrated every day how amazing life with a disability can be. She was given the Intersectionality Award from The Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center in 2016. She was a leader in passing HB 18-1104 which changed Colorado law to make sure that disability was no longer a reason to remove a child from a parental home. There is much, much more.

Carrie became a lawyer to practice family law after lived experience of discrimination against parents with disabilities firsthand. In 1998 fostered and later adopted her oldest daughter, Heather Lucas. Heather has significant developmental disabilities and was languishing in another state. She fostered and was preparing to adopt a second child,

but that was disrupted due to prejudice against parents with disabilities. Where most people might be upset and feel helpless, Carrie Ann was furious and went to law school to represent parents with disabilities.

Carrie adopted three more children over the years, Adrienne Lucas, Azisa Lucas and Anthony Lucas. All of her accomplishments centered on her dedication to her children and her role as a mother. All of her children have significant disabilities and Carrie Ann always made sure that they were not only educated and included in their communities, but that they were loved, respected, and supported in their individual hopes and dreams.

Carrie had a severe neuromuscular disease, a rare form of muscular dystrophy. She relied on a power wheelchair, and had used a ventilator for years. However, her death was premature and caused by inappropriate and brutal cost containment procedures of an insurance company. Because Carrie Ann worked for the state, she had use state insurance which was primary ahead of her Medicare and Medicaid. In January of 2018 she got a cold which turned into a trach and lung infection. Her insurance company UnitedHealthcare, refused to pay for the one specific inhaled antibiotic that she really needed. She had to take a less effective drug and had a bad reaction to that drug. This created a cascade of problems, loss of function (including her speech). United Healthcare's attempt to save \$2,000 cost over \$1 million in health care costs over the past year. This includes numerous hospitalizations, always involving the Intensive Care Unit which is par for the course for ventilator users.

Carrie Ann had hoped to spend a lot of time in 2019 using her tragedy to work to fix our broken health care system. Her blog www.disabilitypride.com provides more details. For all intents and purposes a shero of our community was murdered in the name of cost containment. This is why we MUST fight these measures with all we have. Insurance companies and government programs must not be allowed to deny people what they need. Just last month she was having to ration her insulin for her type 1 diabetes because of the same insurance company and how impossible it is to work between private insurance and Medicare and Medicaid. This is a great example of why people with disabilities should not be forced into insurance or health plans and why we need Medicaid as the primary health delivery system for this country.

In addition to her four children, Carrie Ann is survived by her parents Phil and Lee Lucas, sister Courtney Lucas, brother Eric Gover, her niece Danielle Mann, nephews Cody Mann, Gavin and Colin Lucas, Danielle's partner Aaron Boone and their sons Izaiah, Kyal and Eli, Gavin's wife Kathleen and their daughter Emily and Colin's son Dakota. She is predeceased by a sister, Kelli Mann and her grandparents. She is also survived by her partner Dr. Kimberley Jackson, a CDC Board member and activist in the disability community. She will be missed by a wide circle of friends and colleagues throughout the country.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCANLON). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the