

What we haven't seen is any appetite on the Democratic side for actually getting an outcome. We haven't seen the Democrats put aside their reflexive opposition to anything—anything—the President requests and face the facts.

So allow me to repeat some of those facts yet again. We are all hoping they will sink in some time soon. One week ago this morning, border agents encountered the largest group of people attempting an illegal crossing that they have ever, ever seen. They apprehended more than 1,000 individuals—the largest group ever.

For consecutive months now, the men and women who guard our border have apprehended more than 100,000 people—100,000. That is each month—100,000 a month. We are talking about numbers not seen for more than a decade. And, as we all know, in particular, the amount of families and children are consistently record-breaking as well.

The officials whom we trust to protect our borders—not to mention feed, clothe, and house these individuals—have been crying out for months that their Agencies are stretched literally to the breaking point. One processing center that was designed to hold 125 is said to hold 900—900. The Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement has predicted that the program for unaccompanied children may exhaust all of its funding this month—this month—and need to reduce operations.

Here is one newspaper reporting on testimony from the head of the Border Patrol:

The flood of migrants has overwhelmed Border Patrol stations and other Federal facilities, forcing immigration agents to release migrants directly into U.S. border communities with only the hope that they will appear for their immigration court hearings.

So this funding crisis is directly weakening our border security and national security. It is directly worsening the conditions for these men, women, and children, and the authorities are pleading for our help.

I dare say there are not many occasions when the editorial board of the New York Times has chosen to side with the Trump administration, but this crisis is so bad and the next step is so obvious that it has united President Trump, Republicans here in Congress, and the New York Times editorial page. I doubt if we will see that again.

Here was the title of their editorial about a month ago: "Congress, Give Trump His Border Money." They described:

A humanitarian crisis of overcrowding, disease, and chaos. . . . As resources are strained and the system buckles, the misery grows.

They published that editorial while we were finalizing the disaster funding legislation. There was no reason why the funds to alleviate the humanitarian crisis at the border should not have been included in that bill, and yet my friend, the Democratic leader, came to the floor multiple times late last month to call the issue of border funding "extraneous."

Addressing the security crisis and humanitarian crisis is not extraneous. It is essential. Migrants are experiencing overcrowded and under-equipped facilities. Our law enforcement humanitarian professionals are crying out for help.

Look, I understand our Democratic colleagues find it extremely difficult to put partisanship aside and work with the President the American people elected. I think the whole country sees very clearly that Democrats in Congress seem to prefer picking fights with this President to actually getting much done. Their partisan spite must not prolong this misery any longer. As long as Democrats continue to drag their feet on this crisis, as long as they keep slow-walking funding that every one from President Trump to the New York Times sees is necessary, then, my colleagues across the aisle will continue to own the consequences. It is on them.

I hope my Democratic colleagues will allow this legislation to move forward—no more poison-pill policy riders, no more political posturing. It is way past time for action.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, last week, a man submitted his 2-weeks' notice to his place of employment in Virginia Beach before going there and shooting 12 people and injuring 4 others. He unloaded dozens of rounds indiscriminately. In addition to having two handguns, he had extended ammunition magazines and a suppressor to muffle the sound of gunfire.

This was the 100th mass shooting in America, coming on the 100th day of the year. This has become a regular part of life in the United States of America—individuals walking into churches and shopping malls and schools and places of employment and shooting indiscriminately such that dozens of innocent lives are lost. In most cases, the same kinds of weapons are used—semiautomatic rifles, extended magazines—weapons or components of weapons that are banned in other countries and that were banned in this country for a period of time because they were believed to have been so dangerous such that they should have been in the exclusive province of the military and law enforcement.

REMEMBERING RYAN KEITH COX

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, Ryan Keith Cox was 50 years old when he was

shot and killed on May 31. He was known for his soft-spoken nature and his powerful singing voice in his church choir, and he was constantly affecting those around him with small but meaningful gestures of kindness.

The day that he was killed in Virginia Beach, a close coworker of Ryan's, Christi Dewar, was with him when the shooting started. Ryan told Christi and other colleagues to barricade themselves in the break room. Christi implored Keith to join them in the break room, but he said to her "I have to go check on the other ones." Keith left and was soon shot by the gunman as he was assisting other coworkers in reaching safety.

Christi said:

Every time I was upset, [Ryan] would give me a [big] hug. When I was upset about something, he knew exactly what to say to make you smile. He's the type of person who you know would lay down his life for someone, just like he did.

Bishop Williams of Faith World Ministries in Norfolk said that he had known Keith and his family for years. They were close, a very loving family, and had just been "leaders in the church world," Bishop Williams said.

Ryan Keith Cox was 50 years old when he was shot in Virginia Beach.

REMEMBERING JOSHUA HARDY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, Joshua Hardy was 2 years older. He was 52 years old. He had been working for 4½ years as an engineer and technician for the city of Virginia Beach. He was raised in Hampton Roads. He came from a really big family, and he was described by his friends and his family as being incredibly caring, especially about kids. He didn't have any children of his own, but he often watched over his nieces and nephews.

One of his nieces, Tasha, remembered that he was around a lot. "He cared about me and all of my cousins," she said. "He was like a father figure to me because my dad wasn't around."

In 2011, Joshua actually published a book, called the "ABC Book on Protecting Yourself from Strangers."

The people he worked with remember being so impressed that Joshua had gone above and beyond the call. One of his colleagues in the engineering department, Larry Knight, gave a copy of the book to his daughter and his grandson. He remembers Joshua as just always having a smile on the job:

Joshua was one of the nicest men you would ever care to meet. He was funny and kindhearted. [He] would do anything for you.

REMEMBERING LAQUITA BROWN

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, LaQuita Brown was 39 years old. She was a public servant from Chesapeake, VA. She had worked in the public works department for more than 4 years. She was a right-of-way agent. Her friends called her "Ms. Worldwide" because she loved to travel. She had

been all around the world, and her social media was plastered with pictures of her travels.

Her father, as any father would be, is absolutely heartbroken by her death.

He said:

She was just everything. She was everything to me. I know nobody's perfect—but from the time she was born, she had no faults.

For the Brown family, the grief surrounding LaQuita's death comes on the heels of LaQuita's brother dying from a hit-and-run driver 3 years ago. Her father said that LaQuita helped him through the grief. "She saved me," he said. "I wouldn't have made it through that [without her]."

In 100 days into the year, we have had 100 mass shootings. It doesn't happen anywhere else in the world except in the United States of America. We can't claim to be helpless, and we can't claim to have no solutions because, if it only happens here and nowhere else, then there must be something different happening here. We can learn. We can adapt.

It has now been 100 days since the House of Representatives passed a universal background checks bill, a universal background checks bill that is supported by 90 percent of Americans and would have a significant downward effect on the number of people who are shot in this country.

We tend to pay attention as a nation and as a body only when something like Virginia Beach happens, when there is a mass shooting of an epic scale—when 5 or 10 or 20 people lose their lives at one time. Yet, since the House passed the universal background checks bill, 10,000 people have been shot and killed in America. That is a stunning number.

There have been 10,000 people shot and killed in America in just the 100 days since the House passed the universal background checks bill, but the vast majority of these individuals were not killed in mass shootings. Most of these were suicides. Most of these were individuals who had taken their own lives with weapons. Others were accidental shootings. Many of them were homicides.

The grief and the pain that comes with all of those is no different than the grief that LaQuita Brown's family is feeling right now. We should care about every single one of these deaths.

The reason I pegged this to the passage of the background checks bill is that we know that background checks save lives in States that have universal background checks, meaning, if you are getting a gun in a commercial sale, you need to prove that you are not a criminal or that you are not seriously mentally ill. In the States that have universal background checks, you have fewer suicides, and you have fewer homicides.

Connecticut is a perfect example. The research shows that once we passed our universal background checks requirement—and we did it

quite a number of years ago—we saw a 40-percent reduction in gun homicides in our State. Similarly, when Missouri went from having a universal background checks requirement to its not having one, the State saw a 40-percent increase in gun homicides.

Not every single one of these 10,000 deaths was preventable, but many of them could have been. It is not that we don't know what to do, and it is not that we don't know what makes this country different; it is just that we are unwilling to take those steps.

Just this past weekend, 52 people were shot in communities across this country. There were 10 deaths from gunshot wounds in Chicago alone. These victims are just as worthy of remembering as the victims in Virginia Beach or in Sandy Hook or in Parkland.

REMEMBERING GWAIN BROWN

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, Gwain Brown was 16 years old. He was a sophomore in high school in Chicago, IL, and he was all hyped up to throw himself the biggest 16th birthday party that his friends had ever seen. At the end of April, he was going to throw down. Yet, on April 1, he was standing in front of a gas station when a gunman opened fire and hit Gwain in the leg and the chest.

One of his basketball teammates thought the initial news of Gwain's death was an April Fools' joke as it happened on April 1. So, when he heard about it, he just went back to sleep.

His friends said Gwain was the life of the party and was so energetic. "I was . . . with him . . . a week ago, and for that to happen in this time period, I'm just in shock."

At a vigil, his elementary school principal read an excerpt of something he had written well in school.

Gwain wrote: "I want to be a good son, always be there for my mom and always be there to take care of her."

REMEMBERING JAYLIN ELLZEY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, a couple weeks ago, Jaylin Ellzey was a freshman at Fenger Academy High School in Chicago. According to his uncle, Jacob, he was an outgoing, kind-hearted kid. He lived with his mother. He had two sisters and three brothers.

Jaylin is not around anymore because he was one of those victims of gun violence in the city of Chicago.

His uncle said:

Summer in the city, it's just something different. Other kids look forward to going to summer camp. He was just trying to make sure he lived another day.

His uncle, Jacob, began tearing up as he recalled his favorite memory of Jaylin as a small child. Whenever Jaylin and his brother would come stay with their uncle, they would take a bath, and then they would nestle amongst the pillows and the blankets, waiting for their uncle to blast them with hot air from a blow dryer.

"He was just a lovable kid surviving his environment," said his uncle. "And he knew about family. Family was always instilled in him."

Since my life was changed in December of 2012, when 20 first graders were killed in Sandy Hook, I have tried to come down to the floor every couple weeks and tell the stories of victims of gun violence in this country to try to put some personality behind the 10,000 lives that have been lost in the last 100 days, and I told you about 5 of the victims this morning.

Our inaction is complicity. There are tough things, and then there are easy things. I get it that there are some anti-gun violence measures that I would support that are just too hot for some Republican Members, but I don't care what State you are from, 97 percent of your constituents, 80 percent of your constituents—the vast majority of your constituents—support expanding background checks to make sure that if you buy a gun online or you buy a gun at a gun show, you have to go through a 5-minute background check.

All of our constituents, no matter whether we represent a blue State or a red State, support extreme risk protection orders—the idea that you should be able to go to court when somebody is on the verge of lashing out against someone else or going to hurt themselves and take away their guns, at least temporarily. These are things that are not controversial anywhere, except for here, that we could pass.

Since the House passed the background check bill—by the way, with bipartisan support—10,000 people have died, but there have been 109 mass shootings. Thirty-one States have had a mass shooting; 166 kids have been killed or injured; 175 teenagers have been killed or injured.

I am on the floor today to send my heartfelt condolences to the families in Virginia Beach who continue to mourn yet another mass shooting. I express, as I always do, my condolences to the families of gun violence throughout this country. Eighty to ninety people lose their life every day from a gunshot wound.

I am also here today to ask my colleagues to think about why we continue to refuse to have a debate on a piece of legislation that the House passed 100 days ago in a bipartisan fashion.

Even if you don't love the version of the background checks bill that the House passed, bring your own version to the floor—bring a different bill that will address the epidemic of gun violence in this country. All I ask is that you don't do nothing; that you stop your absolute silence in the face of this epidemic of slaughter.

Let the Senate be the Senate. I heard there was a time some years ago when the U.S. Senate actually debated legislation. I have read in the history books that this is supposedly the greatest deliberative body in the world. We are doing no deliberation here. Bill after