

This may be the election year when the voting rights of a majority of Americans may need both of these laws.

That is why I am asking the Department of Justice, pursuant to its statutory authority and consistent with its historic role as a guardian of civil rights and liberties, to take immediate action and investigate the full scope of vulnerabilities, security threats and breaches to our electoral and voting process posed by groups like Proud Boys.

This President finds it too difficult to call out those among us who are the truly abhorrent and objectionable because they are at the heart of his political base.

The violence seen during the recent national movement to end the deaths of unarmed black men while in police custody is not the start of the events that have led to the Boogaloo movement or Proud Boys activity.

Groups like these have been around for over a century, most notable is the KKK, which is why they should not be invited to visit polling locations during a public election.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), in the immediate aftermath of Election Day, a wave of hate crimes and lesser hate incidents swept the country with 1,094 bias incidents recorded in the first 34 days following Trump's Election on November 8, 2016.

Of these incidents, the SPLC reports that anti-immigrant incidents (315) remain the most reported, followed by antiblack (221), anti-Muslim (112), and anti-LGBT (109).

Anti-Trump incidents numbered 26 (6 of which were also anti-white in nature, with 2 non-Trump related anti-white incidents reported).

The threats from White Nationalist groups range from decentralized and leaderless accelerationist networks using social media platforms, such as the Boogaloo movement, to more structured, far-right militia extremist groups.

The ideologies undergirding these movements or groups have some similarities to other anti-government and white supremacist beliefs but are often not tied to a single, monolithic ideology.

In addition, in many cases, their adherents' decentralized, and coded use of digital tools poses unique challenges for law enforcement and government officials to identify and track their activity.

These developments in domestic terrorism, as reported in the media and government intelligence reports—coupled with recent arrests and successful violent attacks carried out by “Boogaloo boys” and militia extremists—are troubling.

My concern is that as the nation moves towards a historic national election, the activity of violence instigators like Boogaloo Boys or Proud Boys will increase and lead to attacks becoming more frequent.

This view is heightened given the President's instructions to Proud Boys to “Stand Back” and “Stand By.”

The domestic terrorism issues of greatest concern to me are:

The number of incidents, although small in number, that have involved government employees, contractors or military personnel;

The targeting of places of worship;

Politically motivated attacks or attempted attacks; and

Use of Social media for domestic and international hate groups to collaborate and stoke hate.

Increasingly everyday the President confirms his candidacy as candidate of white supremacy.

A quote from Lincoln's address to Congress in December 1862 come to mind, when he said to this body:

“Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We say we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We—even we here—hold the power and bear the responsibility.”

Due to the rise in online activity of these groups spurred by the President's comments many law enforcement jurisdictions around the nation must prepare for the violence that may come as these groups seek to act out in advance of the election.

This will put additional strain on the budgets of local and state law enforcement agencies already burdened with COVID-19 emergency measures and tight budgets caused by the economic collapse due to this Administration's mismanagement of COVID-19.

Congress must send a unified message that there is no place in the body politic for these groups or these views.

I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what the President did not do by joining me and Vice President Biden and millions of Americans in condemning the White Supremist Groups.

OPPOSITION TO DEFUNDING POLICE DEPARTMENTS

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of West Lafayette Police Officer Brian Danosky.

On the morning of August 27, Officer Danosky found 22-year-old Troy Moffitt, who was bleeding from a gunshot wound. Not knowing if the shooter was still in the area, Officer Danosky ignored the danger to his life and rushed to save Mr. Moffitt. Officer Danosky applied a tourniquet to Moffitt's leg, an act that saved Mr. Moffitt's life.

Officer Danosky went above and beyond the call of duty and risked his own safety to save the life of a citizen he swore to protect and serve. For that, Officer Danosky will be the third officer in the last 10 years to receive the Silver Merit Award.

I commend Officer Danosky for his act of bravery, and on behalf of all Hoosiers in the Fourth District, I thank him for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I offer Officer Danosky's story to my colleagues not only to highlight his heroic actions, but to remind them that our police officers are dedicated public servants who want to protect their communities.

Unfortunately, there is a growing movement to disparage and defund our

law enforcement officers. There are even some in this Congress who advocate defunding police departments. We are already seeing the disastrous effects happening over our country in cities where they slice police budgets.

New York City took \$1 billion from their police budget amid rising crime. In July, the city saw a 59 percent increase in murders compared to last year.

The city of Minneapolis is pushing to eliminate their police department at a time when they are seeing a spike in murders.

What makes this rise in crime even more tragic is that the victims are often from underserved communities, the same communities, we are told, that will benefit from fewer police officers in their neighborhoods.

These communities are no different from the communities in my district. They want the same thing: good jobs, good schools, safe communities, and a place to raise their families.

I will continue to support our police officers and oppose any efforts to defund them.

SUPPORTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the millions of Americans who are exercising their Second Amendment right and becoming law-abiding gun owners.

As people across our Nation and across our country watch riots and crime consume our cities and the elected leaders in those cities do little or nothing to stop it, people will ensure they have the means to defend themselves and their family. These millions of Americans who are purchasing these firearms are exercising their God-given and constitutional right to self-defense.

Since March of this year, at least 1.5 million firearms have been sold every month. I pledge to these new gun owners that I will not only work to restore law and order to our communities, but also protect the Second Amendment and make certain every American has the right to protect themselves and their families.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my fellow citizens that, despite our differences and beliefs and our deep divisions, we can still come together as one nation under one flag.

We remember the words stitched on our Nation's first seal, “e pluribus unum,” “out of many, one.” No matter where you came from, what creed you follow, or the color of your skin, we are one nation united under the banner of freedom.

This great experiment in self-government that we call the United States of America has been able to achieve great things like defeating Nazi Germany and landing a man on the Moon because we came together as one. When we stand shoulder to shoulder, there is no obstacle our country can't overcome.

I ask every American to reflect and remember the bonds that unite us and

that they are stronger than those that divide us.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Independent Restaurant Coalition who have been my partners on the RESTAURANTS Act that is currently being negotiated between the Speaker and the White House. This coalition has willed this legislation into effect.

It is comprised of chefs Jose Andres, Nina Compton, Andrew Zimmern, Tom Colicchio, Naomi Pomeroy, Gregory Gourdet, Erika Polmar, Bobbie Stuckey, Robert St. John, and Will Guidara.

Mr. Speaker, these key leaders have represented 500,000 independent restaurants across America and their 11 million workers. They are sort of the point of the spear for the 180-member steering committee who have extended themselves in an extraordinary fashion in helping craft targeted legislation. They make the case to the American public that restaurants—independent restaurants—are the cornerstone and the very fabric of our communities.

It is hard to imagine your city or mine, Mr. Speaker, without these independent restaurants. For many people it is the first job that they get. They are representative of minorities, and they are disproportionately women-owned. They have an energy and a vitality. They provide an area for Americans to come together. In the time of COVID-19, we miss that opportunity to gather, and we need to take action to make sure that they remain in business.

That is what the coalition has done. Uniting behind the RESTAURANTS Act, they have made the case to people all across the country. They have driven Members in the House and the Senate to cosponsor legislation—well over 200 in the House and 40 companion bills in the Senate—making the case that there is something that we can do.

The need here is to have a tailored approach. Without something specific for independent restaurants, we face 85 percent of them closing their doors permanently by the end of the year. The restaurant industry of these independent restaurants are the hardest hit segment of the American economy. In April alone they accounted for half the unemployed.

We have united behind a proposal of \$120 billion in direct grants to restaurants. The PPP simply isn't working for them. It is too cumbersome; the time constraints don't work; and, as a practical matter, we don't need to change the format that we have developed. We have extensive research that documents if we are able to extend this \$120 billion lifeline to the independent

restaurants, then we will avoid over \$183 billion of costs for unemployment and having these institutions file bankruptcy rather than paying their taxes. They support the supply chains in every community. That includes not just the restaurant workers and owners but deals with the people who supply them with the linens, the fruits, the vegetables, and the wine. This is an extensive supply chain that stretches throughout the local economy.

The good news is that we have progress. The Heroes Act includes the RESTAURANTS Act in its entirety with the full \$120 billion. Yesterday there was extensive discussion with our leadership and the White House. We had earlier conversations in the White House with leaders from the Independent Restaurant Coalition. I heard from Will Guidara from New York City about the interaction he had with Secretary Mnuchin, and President Trump was there as a part of it.

This is something that we can do. We can come together, support this provision in the Heroes Act, and negotiate out in terms of the final package to make sure that we protect this lifeline for these vital institutions for all our communities.

I deeply appreciate the interest and momentum that has been developed in both the House and Senate; the people who are stepping forward to help their independent restaurants and the members of the coalition; and, most of all, I want to thank the members of the coalition who represent this critical industry and a potential solution to those problems.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so it is fitting that I rise today in support of H.R. 4078, the EARLY Act Reauthorization, which passed the House earlier this week. I am honored to have co-led this bipartisan legislation with my good friend, colleague, and breast cancer survivor, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

This is an important public health bill to ensure that young women throughout the United States understand the importance of breast health and the value of regular breast cancer screenings.

This bipartisan bill raises public awareness about breast health and educates healthcare providers to encourage early detection of breast cancer. It also supports initiatives and research to help identify high-risk women by collecting family histories and educating patients about early warning signs.

These programs are vitally important. We all know the statistics. One in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer over

her lifetime, and many women with breast cancer typically have no symptoms.

This disease has taken far too many of our loved ones. In 2017, breast cancer was the number one most diagnosed cancer type in the United States and the number two most deadly.

Earlier this year, I lost a very dear friend to this terrible disease, Judy Christofilis. She and I had volunteered in the Junior League in Indianapolis over 20 years ago. She was a successful accountant, a pillar of the Indianapolis community, and, above all, a dedicated philanthropist.

She was on the board of the Indianapolis Day Nursery, Indiana's oldest and largest early childhood education nonprofit. She was extremely active in the Junior League of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Art Center.

But in the last decade of her life, when she was battling breast cancer, she was a founding member of the Indianapolis American Cancer Society Guild and served as its treasurer. The guild's mission is to support the central Indiana office of the American Cancer Society by generating awareness, raising funds, and providing support for community outreach programs to achieve the shared goal of savings lives by helping people stay well, get well, find cures, and fight back.

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This mission epitomizes Judy's fight against breast cancer. She battled metastatic breast cancer for more than a decade. Her resilience, and spirit, served as an inspiration to me and so many others in our community.

Her story is just a reminder of why breast cancer screening is vitally important, and it is often the best and only way to identify this cancer in its earliest stages. Women—even young women—are susceptible to this deadly disease, which is why regular breast screenings are so crucially important.

Our bill reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2024, and it funds CDC programs to identify gaps in education and awareness, particularly among young women and healthcare providers. It supports young survivors through grants to organizations focused on helping them cope with the many unique challenges they face as young women and in implementing a targeted media campaign to reach young and higher-risk women.

The science is clear: Early detection is the single most effective way to stop these cancers before they become deadly.

In my very last conversation with Judy before she passed away in March of this year, she asked me to keep up the fight for all people battling cancer. This bill, in large part, for me, is dedicated to my very dear, close friend Judy Christofilis. She truly is one of my heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our Senate colleagues to pass this important bill this month during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.