

European Union; 23 times higher than Australia. Only in America. Only in America.

Fifty-eight percent of us now—more than half of Americans now—more than half of American adults have someone they care for who has experienced gun violence.

This creeping reality is eating into everyone in America. It is now the leading cause of premature death in the United States and the leading cause of death for our children. The No. 1 killer of American children is gun violence. Only in America. Only in America is the No. 1 cause of death for children gun violence. Nearly 19 percent of childhood deaths in 2021 were caused by firearms. Only in America. In no other comparable country are firearms even in the top four causes of mortality with our children.

Our kids are being forced to do active shooter drills more so now than fire drills, being forced to hold hands, to be taught to escape, to be taught to hide, to be implicitly told by adults that we can't protect you from the No. 1 cause of death.

What is this doing to our society? More than the deaths even is the trauma that is creeping like a cancer into all parts of our society. What is it doing to our collective hearts?

What is it doing to our one Nation under God that this cancer of trauma is entering neighborhoods and communities and towns and cities? What does it mean?

Well, research on trauma shows that the level of collective trauma constitutes a cataclysmic event that affects not just victims of violence but the society as a whole. It is a cancer. It undermines our fundamental sense of security.

If you look at other countries that have suffered these same tragedies that decided to act, that their collective response was to do something—Canada took steps to ban military-style assault weapons. New Zealand placed restrictions on AR-15s and other semi-automatic weapons. In Australia, they implemented a gun buyback program and other actions. In country after country that took action, they affirmed their collective agency to protect their nations. They responded to tragedy with action, to trauma with healing. And yet, only in America, while other nations make progress, we choose to normalize trauma.

People make comments like more guns, more guns will make us safer.

People make comments like, oh, well, it is mental health issues, when other nations have mental health crises.

Some argue—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. BOOKER. I ask unanimous consent for 3 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOKER. We cannot profess to be a nation of freedom if we cannot free

our society from fear, if we can't free our society from violence. We cannot profess to live up to our values if the very Nation founded for—one of the reasons being common defense, but we can't defend our children.

Last week, I introduced with Senator WARREN the Firearms Safety Act, which would implement Federal safety regulations for firearms because right now guns—the most lethal of all consumer products—are the only products that aren't even subject to consumer safety regulations.

Look, I want to end with the truth. A police officer who arrived at the shooting in Allentown recounted discovering a young boy beneath his mother's lifeless body who died protecting this child. He shared with anguish the haunting encounter of finding a young girl also crouched in a prayer-like position. As he searched for signs of life, he turned her head to the side only to find the horror of her face missing. In her final moments on Earth, the position of that girl was in prayer—was to pray. And we in this country—only in America—our response is only thoughts and prayers?

We need to be the prayer answerers. We need to be the ones who respond when people call out for help.

How will we respond to this national nightmare?

What will we do to this uniquely American problem?

Will we show American might? Will we show American strength? Will we show American healing? Will we show American community? Will we show American love for our children or will we repeat this national nightmare over and over again?

When the shots ring out, people run, people hide, people pray. It is time that we in America answer those prayers with action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan first recognized May as National Foster Care Month. Every year since then, the month of May has been recognized as a time to bring awareness to the needs of America's young people who are placed in foster care. It is also important to recognize organizations in Iowa and around the country tirelessly serving kids and families in our foster care system.

I salute these organizations and individuals for their year-round efforts to support the kids, kids who are most in need.

In 2021, there were nearly 400,000 kids in foster care. More than 4,000 of those 400,000 are in my home State of Iowa.

Older youth in foster care and adults who experienced foster care as a child can speak to what worked for them and what didn't work. They should have a seat at the table and a voice in making policy about foster care.

When I founded the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth in 2009, the very special

focus of the caucus was to hear directly from young people in foster care. We also wanted to hear from those who had been aged out of the system without having a permanent place to call home.

Over and over again, I have heard an urgent point of view from these young people and also the teenagers who are in foster care. What I heard was that they would like some permanence. They would say it like they would like to have a mom and dad. They would like to have a family. They would want a place to call home, instead of being shuffled around—maybe two or three different schools in 1 year, which means two or three different foster homes in that year.

All children, no matter of their circumstances then, deserve a permanent, loving home. They need consistent, caring adults in their lives. This year during foster care month, I want to give special recognition to families who answer the call to help vulnerable children and the teens in their communities.

My resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month also marks May 31 as a very particular day to celebrate and show appreciation to foster parents.

Throughout my years in the U.S. Senate, I have worked to keep families together. For example, I have expanded access to prevention services to help parents safely keep custody of their children during substance abuse treatment. The family, as we all know, is the bedrock of our society, so we must work to strengthen the family in the hopes of keeping vulnerable children out of foster care in the first place.

At the same time, it is important that we support the very people who are taking care of these kids—the ones we call foster parents. They answer the call to take into their homes children and teens who have experienced trauma in their very young lives. Foster parents—all of them—deserve recognition and support.

In Iowa, almost every county has a shortage of foster parents who are able to provide temporary homes for these young people. Without volunteer foster parents, kids who cannot remain safely at home often end up sleeping in hotels or in offices of social workers.

I have introduced a bipartisan bill called the Recruiting Families Using Data Act. This legislation would improve how States recruit foster parents and help ensure that they are supported and actually heard. It would help States conduct targeted recruitment for specific areas of need and help kids get matched with the best families for their individual circumstances.

We know that having at least one loving adult in the lives of these young people can meaningfully improve the academic, the social, and the emotional well-being of these kids. That positive experience lasts long into adulthood.

When family reunification is not an option—and that ought to be the first

option—we know that adoption can provide a permanent, loving home for a child in need. Recent data show that adoptions from foster care is declining, with 12,000 fewer children having been adopted in 2021 than in 2019. Currently, more than 100,000 young people in foster care are waiting for adoption across our country, including more than 1,000 in my State of Iowa. By improving support for foster families, we can help increase adoptions for kids who are placed in foster care.

Moving forward, Congress must continue to work to find more solutions and secure better outcomes for youth in foster care. Whether the best choice is family reunification or adoption or living with relatives, the goal is always and must be the same: to protect kids from neglect and from abuse and to provide them with love and with support.

I urge my colleagues to pass my resolution to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

Once again, I will continue to lead efforts with members of our bipartisan Senate Caucus on Foster Youth to help these young Americans achieve their full potential and have a place to call home for the rest of their lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### NOMINATION OF L. FELICE GORORDO

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of Felice Gorordo, the nominee to be the U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the World Bank.

At a time when China is increasingly willing to use its economic power to pressure other nations to do its bidding, when Latin America is trying to recover from the economic impact of the COVID pandemic, when Putin's war in Ukraine threatens the food supply of developing nations around the world, strong, dependable leadership at the World Bank has never been more important. And Felice Gorordo has the experience and vision the United States needs to tackle the challenges the World Bank faces today.

His journey starts the way mine does. He is the son of Cuban exiles who fled dictatorship in their country. His parents came to the United States in search of the American dream. His dad was in law enforcement, and his mom was a teacher. From them, Felice learned the importance of public service.

He will be a tireless advocate for the democratic values that our Nation and both of our families hold so dear, and he will succeed because of his commitment to helping others, which he has demonstrated throughout his life and career.

Felice founded Raices de Esperanza, which means the "roots of hope." It is a nonprofit that empowers young people in Cuba through technology and entrepreneurship. He also worked for both the Bush and Obama administrations in advancing the U.S.'s national

interests—no matter which party was in the White House.

He should be in this post because, in the wake of COVID, his understanding of finance, economic statecraft, and technology will help the United States and its like-minded partners make the concerted push to prevent economic collapse in the developing world.

He should be in this post because we need to make sure that China doesn't continue getting away with their malign influence at the institutions that we, the United States, created to shape the international order.

If confirmed to his post at the World Bank, Felice will advocate for our values. He will stand up for democracy and human rights. So I urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Felice Gorordo to the post of U.S. Alternate Executive Director for the World Bank.

I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 71, L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Charles E. Schumer, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sherrod Brown, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TLLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay" and

the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TLLIS) would have voted "nay".

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

#### YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Osoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	Young
Heinrich	Romney	

#### NAYS—42

Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Graham	Murkowski
Braun	Grassley	Ricketts
Britt	Hagerty	Risch
Budd	Hawley	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Hoeben	Tillis
Feinstein	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The yeas are 53, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD GROUP

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, from the early days of the steam-powered locomotive to the modern era's high-speed rail, Kentucky's railroads have been at the heart of our Commonwealth's growth and development. Though railways are no longer our primary mode of transportation, they remain an essential ingredient of Kentucky's economic success, transporting the goods and resources that power our lives. The R.J. Corman Railroad Group, stationed out of central Kentucky, has been a driving force in propelling the rail industry forward. Today, I would like to recognize this organization's contributions to our Commonwealth on its 50th anniversary.