

In 2020, the Gun Violence Archive reported more than 40,000 deaths caused by gun violence, including over 1,300 children. Yet, despite the fact that gun violence continues to rise—and 90 percent of Americans, including 80 percent of gun owners support universal background checks—Republicans in Congress have spent years blocking bipartisan legislation to close our biggest loopholes and keep our communities safe.

Gun violence is preventable, yet it is such a tragically routine occurrence in this country that every community has a story. Mine is no exception.

I recently joined the Aurora Historical Society in Illinois to pay tribute to the five people murdered and the seven heroic first responders who were injured 2 years ago during a shooting at the Henry Pratt Company.

The mayor of Aurora, Richard Irvin, said after the shooting that “we as a society cannot allow these horrific acts to become commonplace.”

Yet, absurdly, we have already reached the point in which this unspeakable tragedy in Illinois is not even America’s most lethal mass shooting in a town named Aurora. So I call on my colleagues in the Senate to take action with us so that our children can someday live in a country in which gun violence is no longer commonplace.

Madam Speaker, as a nurse, I am thrilled that, in 2019, we finally directed Federal funding toward public health research on gun violence, for the first time in two decades. This type of research is critical for evidence-based policymaking, and I will keep fighting to make sure that that funding continues. But studying the problem is just the first step in our work to solve it. It is already past time to make simple changes that we already know work.

Madam Speaker, background checks are a simple, effective way to keep guns out of the wrong hands. A 1995 Connecticut law requiring background checks for firearm purchases was associated with a 40 percent decline in gun homicides and a 15 percent drop in gun suicides. Meanwhile, when Missouri repealed a similar law in 2007, gun homicides jumped by 23 percent, while firearm suicides rose by 16 percent. Homicides and suicides by other means stayed flat in both States; only gun violence changed.

I wish all our public health crises had such a clear, straightforward solution.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 8 would require a lifesaving background check for every gun sale, while H.R. 1446 would give the FBI more time to complete those checks before a single sale goes through. These bills would not add any new restrictions on who can buy a gun or what kind of gun that they can have. Rather, it would make it easier to enforce our existing gun laws and stop guns from being sold to people who are already prohibited from owning one.

Madam Speaker, I am not willing to wait for the next murderer to attack the next church in the next Charleston. I am not willing to wait for the next angry employee to murder his coworkers at the next Henry Pratt in the next Aurora, Illinois. I am not willing to wait for the next Aurora, Colorado, or the next Pulse Nightclub, or the next Parkland, or the next Tree of Life, or the next Sandy Hook. I am also not willing to wait for more women to be murdered by their abusers, or for more children to be lost to gun violence.

I am done waiting. My constituents are done waiting. Enough is enough.

Americans deserve to feel safe in their schools, in their houses of worship, in their movie theaters, in their workplaces, and in their homes. We can no longer live in a country where any building can so easily become a battlefield.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I in the House voted last week for a safer future for our children. Now I call on my colleagues in the Senate to save lives and send H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446 to the President’s desk.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. STEVENS) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, as we approach another week of legislation, we pray with the psalmist Your favor on each leader in this Chamber. Endow them with Your righteousness, that the judgments of their hearts and the words of their mouths will demonstrate Your defense of the disheartened.

Grant them an understanding of Your perfect justice, that their legislation would reflect Your deep affection for those in need of Your salvation. May the words we speak to one another and the motions put forward be as refreshing as rain on a mown field. And may their decisions, their actions, and their passionate hearts serve this Nation as showers watering the earth.

Bless each and all of us that in all we say, in all that we do, in everything we accomplish this week would give honor to Your glorious name.

We offer this prayer to You in the strength of that name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### SUPPORT THE NUTRITION CARE ACT

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, March is National Nutrition Month, and I am proud to join my colleagues, Representatives JUDY CHU and JACKIE WALORSKI, in leading H.R. 1551, the Nutrition Counseling Aiding Recovery for Eating Disorders Act, or the Nutrition CARE Act for short.

Madam Speaker, eating disorders account for one death every 52 minutes and can impact the lives of individuals across their lifespan. This mental illness does not discriminate, but longstanding health inequities, implicit bias, and stigma contribute to why people of color with eating disorders are half as likely to be diagnosed or to receive treatment.

The Nutrition CARE Act would provide Medicare part B coverage for medical nutrition therapy for beneficiaries with eating disorders, meaning hundreds of thousands of Medicare beneficiaries who identify as Black, indigenous, or people of color would have coverage of a key treatment component.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to help lead this effort, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1551 and bring it to the floor of this Congress.

#### CRISIS AT OUR BORDERS

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, as we speak, at President Biden’s behest, thousands of migrants are crossing our border illegally and being detained in facilities that are well over capacity.

Besides the many adults, the real victims are the thousands of unaccompanied migrant children, many being

sent by drug cartels to this country. These children are often used by cartels to smuggle drugs or money, and many are being sold into essential slavery with the promise of easy and safe passage to the U.S.

Does the President not care about the problem of juvenile human trafficking occurring at the border?

For years, Democrats and media types slammed the Trump administration for keeping kids in cages. Their righteous indignation is conspicuously absent from today's discourse, as they are now referring euphemistically in the press to the "migrant detention centers." Amazingly, you have to have a negative COVID test to fly into the country, but you can be COVID-positive and enter illegally.

Madam Speaker, the basic reality is this: We need to know who is in our country. We are a country of laws. "Catch and release" has now become a national security threat. Even CNN is calling this a crisis.

I urge the Biden administration to admit this is a crisis and fix the problem it has caused.

#### CONGRATULATING BOYDEN-HULL AND WESTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate something that hasn't happened in Iowa for over 110 years.

Last Friday night, two schools from the same community met in the Boys Class 2A State Basketball Championship. It just so happened that the two schools are from my hometown, Hull, Iowa, a community of 2,500 people. The game was an incredible game where Western Christian ended up winning by 6 points at the end.

With this win, Wolfpack, from Western Christian, set another record, being the first school to have 10 State championships in the State.

Congratulations to Boyden-Hull on an incredible season, and congratulations to Western Christian on being the 2A State Champions of Iowa. Both teams make me proud. Both teams make Iowa proud. Both teams make Hull proud.

Madam Speaker, I can truly say this: Hull, Iowa, is the capital of basketball in Iowa.

#### RECOGNIZING LEW COHEN AND MAGNES GLENN

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, one month ago, the entire State of Texas was blanketed with a polar vortex that plunged temperatures to single digits for over 120 hours. Six inches of ice, combined with nine inches of snow,

were common as far south as San Antonio, Texas. Within a day, all 254 counties in Texas were under a State and Federal emergency declaration.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to heroes who heard and saw this crisis and did something about it.

Two heroes—Chairman Lew Cohen, and his partner, Magnes Glenn, from Hawaiian Springs Water—sprung into action. A simple call as a result of our friendship resulted in over 8,000 water bottles being shipped to Leon County, Texas; and 8,500 bottles of water being shipped to Freestone County, Texas.

Help they were. Thank you to so many who were just like these two heroes who helped Texas in her time of need.

#### COMMEMORATING K9 VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this past Saturday, March 13, as K9 Veterans Day, an opportunity to commemorate the working dogs that support our men and women in uniform.

This year marks the 79th anniversary of the establishment of the K9 Corps. In 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Army began training for the K9 Corps, originally known as the War Dog Program. In the years that passed, the K9 Corps has become a vital part of our Armed Forces operations.

Perhaps one of the well-known military K9s is Conan, whose efforts led to the success of the 2019 al-Baghdadi raid.

Following their service, these retired dogs often serve as support animals to servicemembers who may be suffering from PTSD and other disabilities, both mental and physical.

Madam Speaker, our veterans can greatly benefit from the assistance and companionship that a dog provides, and our K9 veterans benefit from their newfound forever homes. Our K9 veterans have served our country, and they, too, deserve to be honored for their service.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 16, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 16, 2021, at 11:24 a.m.:

Appointments:

Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 117th Congress.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 117th Congress.

Senate National Security Working Group for the 117th Congress.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

#### RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
March 16, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House,  
Washington DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: A short time from now, I will be sworn in as the 54th Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. As such, I respectfully offer my resignation from the seat representing New Mexico's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives effective immediately.

I am excited to become the first Native American cabinet secretary in history, although I also feel a sense of sadness in preparing for this new role. As a twice elected member of Congress, it has been the pleasure and privilege of a lifetime to serve alongside you and my colleagues in our quest to improve the lives of the American people and find ways to both protect and advance the greatest democracy in history.

As the daughter of a 30-year combat Marine who grew up traveling our country, and a single mom who relied on food stamps to get by, I never imagined a day like this. I am grateful for my time here in the House. I am grateful for the love and support of many people, and most notably, I am a proud New Mexican.

As a volunteer, activist, and organizer for more than twenty years, it was my proudest professional moment to be elected as one of the first two Native American women to serve in Congress. I feel immensely satisfied to have been a part of what our Democratic House Majority accomplished in a short period of time. With your brilliant leadership, I have had the opportunity to help move legislation forward on critical issues like climate change, voting rights, racial and economic justice, and most recently COVID relief for millions of Americans. I'm also proud to have worked in a bipartisan manner to help address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and ensure the men and women serving in our nation's military and their families have the support they need. The professional alliances and personal friendships I have made during my time in the People's House will last a lifetime.

I know that my work as a member of the Natural Resources Committee and as Chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands has helped prepare me for my new role in the Biden Administration, and I am grateful to my colleagues for those opportunities. The honor and responsibility that President Biden has bestowed on me to serve the country in this way is profound, humbling, and exhilarating.

Many thanks to you and all of my colleagues for your support and your friendship.