

failed to answer the cries of Americans who have lost their loved ones, particularly our children, to the scourge of gun violence.

Congress has failed to respond to the pleas of Americans who have been disabled by stray bullets. Congress has failed to acknowledge the vast majority of Americans—Republicans and Democrats, gun owners and non gun owners—who believe that every gun purchased should be accompanied by a background check. With each failure, we are closer to a day when tragedies like those of San Bernardino and Sandy Hook will become what they never should be: commonplace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to find the courage to take action. It is long past overdue.

#### PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS RESTRICT SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as citizens of the United States, we are afforded basic rights and privileges under the Constitution. One of these fundamental rights is the Second Amendment, and its guarantee to keep and bear arms is clear.

Yesterday, in yet another attempt to erode our basic liberties, President Obama announced plans to undermine the will of Congress and challenge the Second Amendment rights of all Americans.

Just like his unilateral actions on immigration, this proposal is an overreach of the President's constitutionally granted executive authority. Congressional refusal to pass bad policy does not transfer legislative authority to the President, and I will fight against this attempt to diminish our constitutional rights.

Guns are one of many tools that people use to commit horrific crimes, but the problem of evil cannot be legislated away. It is important that any legislative response, whether it is at the Federal, State, or local level, ensures that the constitutional rights of all citizens are protected.

#### GUNS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last year more than 13,000 Americans lost their lives because of a gun. More than 3,300 children were killed or injured. As the President said yesterday, the question of whether we address gun violence is really a question about who we are and what kind of country we want to live in.

Do we want to be a country in which we have a mass shooting nearly every single day of the year? Do we want to be a country in which children in a school have to practice hiding silently

under their desks or in a closet in order to avoid an active shooter? Do we want to be a country in which the National Rifle Association buys influence and drowns out the voices of concerned citizens? Do we want to be a country in which all Congress does after a mass shooting is hold another moment of silence instead of addressing the problem?

That is the country we live in today, a country in which gun violence threatens lives every day, a country in which we are growing accustomed to atrocities that just don't happen as often in other developed countries.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better. The President has done his job. Now it is time for Congress to do its job.

Let's pass universal background checks. Let's do more to keep guns from criminals and from those with serious mental illness, such that possessing a gun would pose a threat to themselves or others. Let's get military-style assault weapons out of our communities. Let's do better.

#### PROTECTING AMERICANS' SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has announced plans to use an executive order to implement new gun control measures. This plan is a complete overreach into the lives of the American people.

Unfortunately, this President has spent his entire time in office expanding the size of our Federal Government and infringing on our constitutional rights. This disappointing news is just another example of his blatant disregard for the United States Constitution.

As a gun owner myself, I will continue to fight to protect our Second Amendment rights. I remain completely opposed to any action that puts any level of new restrictions on our Second Amendment right to bear arms.

#### PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, we have barely started 2016 and here we are, about to take our 62nd vote to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and facing the 11th attack on women's health care in the 114th Congress. Defunding Planned Parenthood and dismantling the ACA will rob hard-working Americans of affordable family planning, and it will strip life-saving cancer screenings away from millions of women across the country.

As Congress, we haven't taken 62 votes to improve women's health and access to healthcare programs for women and seniors. The 114th Congress hasn't declared war on the appalling

lack of healthcare, nutrition, and mental health programs.

But here we are again, wasting valuable tax dollars in order to rehash the ideology of a loud few, one that hurts women and our most vulnerable of constituents. This is just a sad and shameful day.

Congress, this must stop.

#### ROYER-GREAVES SCHOOL FOR BLIND

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Viola Wiskoski, a resident of Paoli, Pennsylvania, which is in the Sixth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

Recently, Viola retired from the Royer-Greaves School for Blind after 70 years of dedicated service as the school's secretary. The Royer-Greaves School for Blind has been a staple in the Paoli community since 1941, and for nearly a century it has provided quality care and assistance to individuals who are visually impaired.

Viola coined her work as an "experience of a lifetime," particularly the privilege of having worked directly with Dr. Royer-Greaves.

For 70 years, Viola ensured that the school operated smoothly, enabling it to work toward its mission of "providing a supportive education and training environment for students with multiple disabilities to help them reach their full potential and enjoy an enhanced quality of life."

In 2009, her service to the school and community was honored with accolades, including the Jessie Royer-Greaves award.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and thank Viola for her dedicated service to the Royer-Greaves School for Blind. Her achievements have left a meaningful impact on the school, its students, and the community. She is a great and caring American. We wish her the best in health and happiness in retirement.

#### GUN VIOLENCE AND OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I have stood here many times in the last few years with the same message to my colleagues: Let's take action on gun violence and save some lives.

I have named horrible statistics on gun death, like young people in the United States are more likely to be killed by a gun than in a car accident.

I have told stories about people who have suffered incredible loss, like Vicky Lindsey from Compton, who lost her son to gun violence and founded Project Cry No More.

I have cited polls showing bipartisan support from voters for sensible reforms; but year after year, Congress

has refused to act, despite its knowing how easy it is for criminals and dangerous people to buy these deadly weapons.

This week there was a bright spot. President Obama has taken executive action to increase the number of background checks on gun sales, a move which we know will help to keep guns out of dangerous hands.

I thank the President, but our work to prevent gun deaths cannot end there. Congress must finish the job by instituting universal background checks, banning assault weapons, and closing the dangerous loophole that allows a gun dealer to sell a gun if the FBI has not completed the background check within 3 days. We have to act. There is no excuse not to.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LINDA OSMUNDSON

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a survivor, a leader, and a compassionate woman who dedicated her life to making the Pinellas County community and the State of Florida safer. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Linda Osmundson, who passed away this Monday at the age of 66.

A longtime activist against domestic violence and a survivor herself, Linda was best known as the director of Community Action Stops Abuse, or CASA, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Linda served as head of CASA for 26 years before retiring this past summer. Before that, she guided programs in both Gainesville and West Palm Beach. Under Linda's leadership, CASA grew from a staff of 7 working out of a small home to over 80 employees with a 100-bed facility.

Linda started a first-of-its-kind substance abuse program for victims. In addition, she worked with law enforcement, who are now properly trained on dealing with domestic violence. She co-founded a program to secure pardons for victims of domestic violence convicted for defending themselves. For that, she earned the Governor's Peace at Home Award.

Mr. Speaker, Linda Osmundson leaves a legacy that will not be forgotten. She was a quiet hero in our community, and her life's work undeniably saved thousands of lives and made Florida a safer place. For that, we are grateful.

#### ATTACKS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AND TAKING AWAY HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, it may be a new year, but the Repub-

licans are celebrating with the same old extreme attacks on women's health care and trying to take away health insurance from hardworking American families.

It is a shame that the House Republican leadership has chosen to spend the first week of 2016 attacking Planned Parenthood and dismantling those important benefits to 22 million Americans.

The bill that we will vote on today will defund Planned Parenthood and the important family planning services that they provide, including lifesaving cancer screenings for millions of women across this country. This bill would dismantle affordable health care for millions of more workers, for families, for students.

Instead of wasting time on a radical bill which, quite frankly, some on the other side have acknowledged will not become law, we ought to be focusing on the questions that the American people sent us here to work on—on getting our economy moving, putting Americans back to work, and rebuilding our infrastructure. That is the challenge that we face, and we ought not politicize women's health care in order to pander to the extreme voices on the right.

#### FAILED POLICIES, EMPTY RHETORIC

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 23, the Augusta Chronicle published an editorial with significant insight:

"President Obama finally has a counterterrorism strategy: Photo-ops and speeches. After dawdling for several years in the fight against ISIS, his advisers must realize that Mr. Obama is losing not only the war on terror, but the domestic audience as well.

"This administration is a story of one failure after another. The President calls ISIS the JV team of terror. He says ISIS is contained, the day before the Paris attacks. The morning of the San Bernardino terror attack, he says: 'Our homeland has never been more protected by more effective intelligence and law enforcement professionals at every level than they are now.'"

The editorial continues: "American lives are on the line, and this President won't identify the enemy or secure our borders and communities. And his plan of attack? Photo-ops and speeches and unvetted refugees."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Thank you, Peggy Sampson, for your dedicated service.

#### SUPPORTING PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's actions to address our Nation's epidemic of gun violence.

Yesterday at the White House, I joined with families from Newtown, Connecticut, which I am proud to represent, and with families from across this great country as the President outlined four steps within the current law to improve gun violence prevention.

First, strengthening background checks. If you are in the business of selling firearms, whether at a gun show or online, your customers should have to go through a background check.

Second, improving enforcement of the background check system so that it works better and faster.

Third, expanding access to mental health treatment and to tear down barriers to implementing existing law.

And, fourth, directing lifesaving new research into innovative technologies to make guns safer.

These are small but meaningful steps to address a public health crisis about which this House has been astoundingly silent. It is time for this House to honor the victims of gun violence, not with moments of silence, but with days of action. We can and we must do better to save American lives.

#### 100TH PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

(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. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I am proud to rise in recognition of the 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show, which starts this weekend in the Commonwealth's State capital of Harrisburg.

Agriculture is so important to our Nation's economy, and the same is true in Pennsylvania, where it is our largest industry. The farm show is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the Nation, with nearly 6,000 animals and 10,000 competitive exhibits from across the State.

The event itself started in 1917 with several events held across Harrisburg. By 1931, attendance had risen to 131,000. Today, the figure stands at an estimated 400,000.

This weekend, I will visit the farm show with Agriculture Committee Chairman MICHAEL CONAWAY and several other House colleagues. We will take part in a listening session in order to hear from farmers and others involved in agriculture regarding Federal policies.

I am looking forward to showing all those who make the trip to Harrisburg