

First Amendment, the right to free speech, and, yes, the Second Amendment, with the restrictions and the recognition that AR-15s are killing Americans.

We must stop it now.

□ 1930

#### BRINGING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO STATE EXCHANGES

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for their recent hearing on my legislation, H.R. 4262, the Transparency and Accountability of Failed Exchanges Act.

ObamaCare just had its sixth anniversary. In those 6 years, we have learned just how disastrous ObamaCare is, exposing its many flaws. One of those being when the President freely gave money away to States to establish State exchanges, he forgot a major piece of the puzzle. The administration failed to provide a solution to recover these funds when these State exchanges failed.

Since then, billions of taxpayer dollars have been spent, and exchanges in multiple States have failed.

Well, what has happened to the money if the exchange failed?

My legislation establishes a two-step plan to recover Federal funds. It conducts an audit to see how and where the money was spent and requires unused funds be returned back to the Treasury for needed deficit reduction.

Again, I thank the committee for their interest in H.R. 4262 and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. It is time to bring transparency and accountability to State exchanges.

#### HORRIFIC EVENTS IN ORLANDO

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, as we grapple with the horrific events that took place yesterday morning in Orlando, my thoughts are with the families of the victims and everyone affected during Pride Month.

The targeting of LGBT individuals in this heinous act of violence has reignited many fears and uncertainty in our community. As a country, we must stand together to denounce bigotry and hatred and embrace love and acceptance.

President Barack Obama declared this an act of terror and an act of hate, an action perpetrated with a military-style assault weapon. Unfortunately, this week Congress won't do a thing about any of these issues. In fact, all

too often actions and language here in Congress and on the campaign trail actually exacerbate would-be terrorists, and actions even on the floor of the House of Representatives all too often reinforce the hate of some people, including gays and lesbians.

Unfortunately, this body is too chicken to address the epidemic of military-style assault weapons because that would upset the gun manufacturers and gun lobby.

In the end, all we did, yet again, is have another moment of silence rather than a moment of action. That disrespects the lives of the people who were killed not just yesterday, but every day by gun violence. There may be blood in the streets, but if Congress continues to fail to act, we will have blood on our hands.

#### ALYSSA FERGUSON IS A SPECIAL YOUNG LADY

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give an update to the folks back home about a special young lady, Alyssa Ferguson.

I first talked on this floor about Alyssa when the Fort Bend Star told us her story. It was their third best story for 2015. I also spoke on this floor a second time about Alyssa the first time I met her. She threw out the first pitch, a strike, at a home game for our local pro baseball team, the Skeeters.

Alyssa is special because what she has done when she heard that she had cancer. She used her only wish from the Make-A-Wish Foundation to give a water well to a small village in Africa.

A few weeks ago, Alyssa and 100 kids with cancer enjoyed a Prom Party Palooza at Texas Children's Hospital. Alyssa said: "Some people don't make it to the real prom. It's great we get a chance to experience that."

Keep fighting, Alyssa, and when you go to your real prom, there will be a long line waiting to be your date, and I will be at the front of that line.

#### TRAGEDY AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. I have had the honor of representing Orlando, Florida, for the last 24 years. Yes, Orlando is one of the number one destinations in the country and it is very sophisticated and very diverse, but it is a family-oriented community. We have a very heavy heart.

Although there are numerous unanswered questions at this time, the fact that this attack took place at a nightclub frequented by members of the LGBT community and that it took

place as our Nation celebrates LGBT Pride Month leaves one to believe that this was motivated by deep hate and prejudice.

I spent Sunday night and Monday in Orlando working to ensure that the State and local officials receive the Federal resources they need to make sure that this never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, the community is coming together, but a little girl gave me this picture. This picture, so simple. This picture says "Orlando Strong." Orlando is strong, but, you know, I don't know how much longer we are going to stand and have a moment of silent prayer.

A moment of silent prayer, and then what?

You know, to whom God has given much, much is expected. He expects us to do more than stand and rise for a moment of silent prayer when one person killed over 50 people and sent out over a hundred bullets. It is just unacceptable. People around the world are looking at us, and they think there is something wrong with us.

People in America, what is wrong with you? How much longer, how much longer are we going to rise for a moment of silent prayer?

Prayer without work is in vain.

#### RECOGNIZING THE JOHN S. JAMES COMPANY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the John S. James Company in Savannah, Georgia, for receiving an "E" award from the United States Department of Commerce.

The "E" award is the highest honor the United States Government can give to an American exporter. The prestigious award was created by President Kennedy in 1961 as a way to distinguish companies who achieve excellence in exporting United States goods and products.

This award was presented by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to the John S. James Company on May 16, 2016, during World Trade Week. Founded in 1941, the John S. James Company has excelled in international freight forwarding, customs brokerage industries, transportation services, and cargo insurance. The company has expanded into six locations across the Southeastern United States and provides shipping services across the globe.

The John S. James Company is a great example of American success in the international market. I am very proud of this company in the First Congressional District of Georgia, and I wish them all the best in their future.

#### BUSINESS AS USUAL

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker and Members, we have had another moment of silence, a moment of silence indicating that somehow we are concerned about what happened in Orlando, Florida. It is not good enough.

How many times have we done this? Whether we are talking about Sandy Hook, where those babies were killed, or we are talking about North Carolina or we are talking about San Bernardino or Aurora, Colorado, we keep getting up with a moment of silence because we don't want to deal with what is really going on.

This Republican leadership is pitiful. It is disgusting that they don't have the guts or the commitment to call it like it is and bring a bill to this floor to get rid of assault weapons. That weapon that killed those 50 people and harmed those other 53 is a weapon that is designed for war. Don't tell me about your hunting concerns. This AR-15 has nothing to do with hunting. This is about killing. And so this leadership is spineless, it is gutless, and it deserves not to have the ability to get up on this floor and talk about responsibility or innovation—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.—or any of this other stuff that they are talking about. I want to say over and over again, I don't care if my time is up, you stop me from talking if you will.

The fact of the matter is, we should all be on this. Business as usual? I don't think so. We should have stopped everything this evening, concentrated on how we can get a bill to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I know you don't want me to talk while you are waiting for your talking points from the leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.  
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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to recognize the gentleman from California.

PROPERTY RIGHTS EXEMPTION FOR FARMS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last Friday a Federal court in California made an almost unbelievable ruling that the Army Corps of Engineers could regulate the plowing of fields despite clear exemptions for normal farming activities in the Clean Water Act.

Ruling against a family farm in my district, the court somehow found that the Corps was justified in attacking the farm for, believe it or not, planting wheat on land that had been used to grow wheat for decades. Wow. The

nerve of this family, to grow crops on land historically used to grow crops.

Rarely have we seen an administration distort the legislative intent of Congress as it has in this instance. The Army Corps and EPA are ignoring language that exempts "normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting . . ." and so on—exactly the activity that occurred in this instance. In other words, Congress clearly and unambiguously exempted day-to-day activities, and yet the administration continues working to try to regulate them.

Mr. Speaker, we have enacted language I have sponsored to defund this type of lawless regulation, and yet the administration continues. We must rein in this executive overreach and develop reforms that end this abuse once and for all.

THE DEADLIEST SHOOTING IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, the June 12 mass shooting at a club in Orlando, Florida, was not only the deadliest shooting in American history, it was one of the most heinous hate crimes and acts of terrorism this country has ever seen. Too often hate crimes and acts of terrorism use guns. The epidemic overwhelmingly express the need to strengthen our gun laws.

A stronger background check system will help prevent hate crimes and acts of terrorism to protect Americans from terrorists who want to attack our way of life. We must give the FBI the authority to block sales to suspected terrorists, and we must require background checks for every gun sale in America.

Mr. Speaker, no more silence. Let's stand up as Americans, and in this Congress, and tell the American people, those who are mourning, and those across this country who have experienced this that we in Congress will do the work we were sent here to do, and that is to stand up and take action.

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BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: A CALL TO ACTION BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TO ELIMINATE RACIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials relevant to the subject matter of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening, along with my colleague, Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES of the Eighth Congressional District of New York, for tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, Bridging the Divide: A Call to Action By the Congressional Black Caucus to Eliminate Racial Health Disparities.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, the Congressional Black Caucus comes to the House floor to discuss our overarching goal of promoting equality for African Americans across the healthcare spectrum.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that poverty, socioeconomic status, and health disparities are closely linked and latched together. For example, individuals with low incomes tend to have more restricted access to medical care and face greater financial barriers to affordable health care, oftentimes contributing to health disparities.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans released their Conference's poverty plan called A Better Way. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, this Republican antipoverty proposal isn't a better way, Mr. Speaker. It isn't even a new way. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is the wrong way. It uses the same trickle-down, discredited policies that House Republicans have put forth in the past.

The House Republicans' poverty elimination proposal would repeal the Affordable Care Act and undermine affordable, quality health coverage that millions of Americans are now enjoying. It would also cut Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program that we refer to as CHIP, and it would end the Medicare guarantee—programs with proven successes, Mr. Speaker, in reducing health disparities. So this is, in part, why we are here tonight.

We know that health coverage is the first step in securing better healthcare outcomes, and Medicaid and CHIP play a vital role in opening the doorway to the needed health care, especially for our children.

As we address the most pressing challenges in achieving health equity and equality for African Americans, I want hardworking American families to know that they have voices in Congress that aim to protect their safety, invest in their future, and provide affordable health care for all.

With the Affordable Care Act, which every member of the Congressional Black Caucus supported when it passed, we have improved access. We have improved affordability and quality of health care.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Obama for moving the needle forward in helping American families and African American families across this great country and Nation to have the financial and health security that comes with health care.