

the Husker football team and Creighton basketball team.

No one deserves this kind of senseless violence, and the thoughts and prayers of all Nebraskans go out to Seth's family.

CONGRESS HAS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, when we were elected to serve, we were charged with a responsibility, the responsibility to give our constituents a voice in Washington. They are crying out for action on the public health emergencies that are plaguing our country.

And if we do not act, why are we here?

We need to vote on legislation that makes an impact on the epidemic of gun violence in our country. The American people are demanding a vote, and we have a moral obligation to take action. For each of us, it is personal. In every community in this country, the effects of gun violence have left scars that will never heal.

Congress also needs to act immediately on Zika. We must fund the President's request that was made 5 months ago. We must not put American women in the predicament of choosing whether or not they should get pregnant or, if they are already pregnant, wondering whether or not their baby is okay.

We are also facing a nationwide opioid epidemic that is sounding alarms that we must heed. We are all seeing this in our districts.

And the lead poisoning of thousands of children in Flint, Michigan, and across our country has not disappeared. Over 500,000 children every day are affected by lead poisoning.

We were elected to vote on issues working families care about. The Republican majority left town, abdicating its responsibility and leaving the American people at risk.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, House Republicans are leaving town for 52 days. That is 52 days that we won't be taking action to address public health crises like Zika and the Flint water crisis. Time and time again, House Republicans have blocked meaningful emergency funding needed to protect the health and safety of American families.

And even as Americans continue to lose their lives every day, House Republicans still have not answered our call for a vote on bipartisan gun violence prevention legislation. We have a responsibility to protect the safety of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we answer the call of communities across this country who are demanding action on commonsense solutions like strengthening our background check system and ensuring we keep guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists.

Families are counting on us. Let's do our job.

CONGRESS HAS COMPELLING UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last month I sat with parents who lost children to gun violence. There was such sorrow in the room.

"When I lost my son, I lost myself," one mother said.

Another said: "Until we get these guns off the streets, the cycle is going to continue."

As I listened to their stories, I heard again the tragic ways that gun violence so abruptly takes lives and devastates families and communities every single day, and I took to heart their message that too many weapons are too easily available.

Preventing weapons from getting into the hands of terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill is common sense and essential to our security, and there are bipartisan bills in Congress right now that would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be leaving town with such compelling unfinished business. We should be voting on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

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ZIKA VIRUS

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Zika virus—there is no vaccine, and there is no treatment. It kills the weak and the frail. The fancy term is it is also teratogenic. It disrupts regular embryonic development—teratogenic. It has infected 1,000 Americans—200 pregnant women. It is spread by mosquitos that are just emerging from their winter dormancy.

What are we doing about it? We are going home for 7 weeks.

As this body has descended further and further into dysfunction, I have heard a lot of rationalizations: "Congress just waits until the last minute"; "they have to see real consequences before they take action"; "let the body work through regular order."

I reject them all. For the second time in 3 years, this body has had and faced a devastating, urgent public health crisis.

What has been our response? Missing in action.

We acted too late with Ebola, and now, with Zika, we are not acting at all. Democracy can't work if we don't work.

I don't yield back, Mr. Speaker. I don't yield now. I don't yield in September. I don't yield in November, and I don't yield in December until we do our work.

Come back. Fight this disease.

SALVADOR ESPARZA AND WORK LEFT UNDONE

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, at just 4 years old, Salvador Esparza already had a reputation for lighting up a room whenever he walked in. His aunt called him "a sweet boy with a passion for soccer and Spiderman."

But now pictures and memories are all that remain. Last week, Salvador was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting on his own front porch in my California district. Like him, 91 people are killed by guns each day.

But people like Salvador deserve to be more than a statistic. That is why I joined 350 people in front of Pasadena City Hall last week at a vigil to call for an end to gun violence. They are hurting.

Now is the time for Congress to take action to save lives. But, instead, Republicans decided to end session early and push lifesaving work on guns, Zika, and the Flint water crisis aside.

The American people elected us to do our job. They deserve better.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE CUT AND RUN ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, here we are, House Democrats, right here in the House, ready to work. Where are House Republicans? Well, they have escaped for 52 days without taking care of the Nation's business.

That's right, escaped—you know, left, fled, absconded, disappeared, departed, dodged, bolted, bailed, ducked out, burst out, shipped out, made off, cut and run. That is what House Republicans have done.

But here is what is left undone: the opportunity to protect our children and families from the spread of the Zika virus, from a concern to a public health crisis; the opportunity to provide clean drinking water for over 9,000 children in Flint, Michigan, poisoned with lead.

This is serious. In fact, it is sobering. In the next 52 days that the House Republicans have escaped, 4,732 American men, women, and children will lose their lives to gun violence, including 67 who will be killed with a gun as a result of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker,

6,780 perpetrators have already gotten their hands on guns through the loophole.

Where are House Republicans? You got it. They are on vacation.

So shame on House Republicans for not acting to protect our communities from the epidemic of gun violence by passing 100 percent background checks no matter where a gun is purchased and preventing terrorists from buying a gun when they can't even get on a plane. Shame on House Republicans for cutting and running on the American people.

CONGRESS' APPROVAL RATING

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, a recent poll showed that Congress has an approval rating of 12 percent. Nobody in their right mind would ever think that is a good rating.

It is no wonder that our poll ratings are so low. We have left now for 7 weeks—52 days, as you have heard—without funding Zika, despite the fact that it is spreading throughout the Southwest United States and the territories.

We have left now for 52 days—7 weeks—without passing commonsense gun safety legislation, despite the terrible tragedies we are seeing in all of our communities every day.

We have left town without addressing the opioid epidemic in any meaningful way through funding.

Now, listen. Our constituents didn't send us here to go on vacation. They have sent us here to do the work of the people. And anybody who thinks that the people—our constituents—are not going to notice that we are not here doing this work for 7 weeks doesn't understand what the House Democratic Caucus intends to do for the next 2 months, because we intend to remind our constituents every single day of the job that we were elected to do.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 534

Whereas William L. Armstrong (in this preamble referred to as "Bill Armstrong") was born in Fremont, Nebraska, and attended Tulane University and the University of Minnesota;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was a broadcaster and owner of media outlets, such as radio stations and newspapers;

Whereas Bill Armstrong served in the Army National Guard of the United States from 1957 to 1963, which brought him to Colorado;

Whereas at age 25 Bill Armstrong was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, where he served from 1963 to 1964;

Whereas Bill Armstrong then served in the Colorado Senate from 1965 to 1972, where he

became Majority Leader after only 4 years of service;

Whereas Bill Armstrong served the people of Colorado in the United States House of Representatives from 1973 to 1979 and in the United States Senate from 1979 to 1991;

Whereas Bill Armstrong served honorably as the Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee from 1985 to 1991;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was a strong conservative who consistently advocated for such matters as fiscal discipline and tax reform, pay and benefits for military service members, and the support of small businesses;

Whereas Bill Armstrong worked to pass the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-34, 95 Stat. 172) and was recognized multiple times with the "Taxpayers' Friend" award by the National Taxpayers Union;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was named the "military pay champion" of the Senate by the Army Times;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was an ardent champion of small business;

Whereas Bill Armstrong earned the "Guardian of Small Business" award from the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry Public Service Award in 1982 for his distinguished service to the people of Colorado;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was instrumental to the passage of title I of Public Law 96-560 (94 Stat. 3265) (commonly known as the "Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980"), which preserved 1,400,000 acres of land;

Whereas Bill Armstrong continued to serve the people of Colorado for the last 10 years as president of Colorado Christian University;

Whereas Bill Armstrong possessed a strong faith and lived his life accordingly;

Whereas Bill Armstrong led hundreds of prayer breakfasts and served on the board of Campus Crusade for Christ and Christian Businessmen's Committee USA;

Whereas Bill Armstrong was a person of firm principle, worked towards meaningful solutions, and described himself as "relatively inflexible on principles, but flexible on the details";

Whereas, throughout his life, Bill Armstrong demonstrated great integrity and remarkable leadership; and

Whereas Bill Armstrong touched the lives of all those he served and helped families across Colorado through his devotion to public service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable William L. Armstrong, former member of the United States Senate;

(2) the Senate instructs the Secretary of the Senate to communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of William L. Armstrong; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns on the date of adoption of this resolution, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable William L. Armstrong.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 2943) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.", and agrees to the request from

the House for a conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon with instructions, and appoints Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. FISHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. REED, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Mr. HEINRICH to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

LEAVING FOR AUGUST RECESS

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, when we Democrats held our sit-in on the floor of the House, I proudly stood up and said that call to action was, in fact, the reason I came to Congress—not so much the act itself, but the rationale behind it.

I came to Congress to get things done on behalf of my constituents. In fact, it baffles me, along with my constituents, that we aren't even allowed to debate, much less vote, on an issue as dire and as important as gun violence.

Now House Republicans have left town for 7 weeks without addressing this very issue, and this part of the debate is in every community in America. It is not just gun violence. We have not adequately dealt with the Zika health crisis, and we have not dealt with the Flint water crisis.

I am going to go home to New Mexico soon, where forest fires are raging across the West. But we did nothing to support those States and the Forest Service that battles those fires at home.

I wasn't elected to apologize to my constituents every time I see them for the inaction of the Republican leadership. We should stay in this Chamber, and we should do the work that our constituents expect and demand of us.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Nation's Capitol has the strongest gun safety laws in the country. Yet the Capitol complex was on lockdown Tuesday as D.C. Police chased suspects armed with a machine gun and shooting at police near the Capitol.

People and their guns travel in interstate commerce instantly making our country's gun problem national, not local. D.C.'s strong gun safety laws are still on the books, despite pro-gun lawsuits and incessantly proposed Republican riders. But local and State laws