

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

to protect our people are undermined by inaction by this Congress.

The Charleston loophole is the decent place to begin. We sat in on the House floor because we could not go home in silence for July Fourth. Today, we declare no recess from the gun show loophole until universal background checks become the law of the land.

GUN SAFETY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, we ought to be able to go to the store, walk down our sidewalks, and go dancing without the fear of being shot. Democrats and Republicans in the United States House of Representatives need to come together to pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

What is wrong with a no fly, no buy bill? If you can't get on a plane, if you cannot board one of our commercial aircraft carriers in this country, why in the world can you go into a sporting goods store and buy a TEC-9—or any kind of gun for that matter? We need to do something.

Let me tell you, as a native Texan, responsible gun owners aren't the problem. I own a gun. A lot of Democrats that I know own guns. But I don't want al Qaeda and I don't want ISIS owning guns. But under the current laws in the U.S., if they are on a no-fly list, they can go into a sporting goods store and buy a gun.

It is just not right. Let's take some action now, Mr. Speaker.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, if you go to a federally licensed gun dealer to buy a firearm, you must pass a background check. But if you go to a private seller at a gun show or over the Internet, it is completely legal to buy a firearm with no background check to determine if you are fit to own a deadly weapon.

In all the discussion we have had on gun violence, I have yet to hear one good reason why this loophole should continue to exist.

Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of gun owners and 86 percent of Republican voters support universal background checks. But instead of listening to the American people, my Republican colleagues have left town. They have rushed out of town. They have scrambled out of town.

I will say the same thing I told my students when I was a high school teacher: There can be no recess until our work is done.

Come back to Washington, and let's pass a universal background check bill.

CONGRESS MUST DO ITS JOB

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the House of Representatives prepares to leave Washington for 7 weeks—52 days—without addressing some of the most critical issues we face in this country.

Instead of working together, Democrats and Republicans, towards meaningful solutions to protect the American people, we spent the week debating bills that are going to go absolutely nowhere.

Our constituents are tired of our not getting things done. We have failed to meaningfully respond to the Flint water crisis, which has left families in my home State of Michigan reeling for too long.

My women friends are afraid to go outside because they are afraid they are going to be bitten by a mosquito, and we failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

When I meet with victims of domestic violence, which I do quietly every week, they want to know why can't we just talk about it.

People want to know why I am coming home for so long. They want action in this Chamber. We need to do the job the American people elected us to do. We need to come together to find solutions to the bigger problems we face.

Let's do our job.

ISSUES LEFT UNADDRESSED

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, when you think about it, it is a very simple solution to think about: If you can't fly because you are too dangerous to be on a plane and you are a threat to the country, why would you be allowed to buy a gun? Yet the gun lobby is so strong that our colleagues in the Republican Party could not see fit to change that.

Secondly, we have another threat in this country and that we are not paying attention to. We have a Zika epidemic that is brewing. It started already. It is hurting the territories. It is going to hurt Florida in a strong way, and it will move north. Then it might be too late, when we have so many people sick.

Why would they leave town and run away from real issues when they could have stayed here and faced the American people by doing the right thing? What are they going to say now to the American people when they ask: Why didn't you protect the children? Why didn't you protect the pregnant women? Why didn't you stop crazy people or people who need help from getting on an airplane with a gun?

That is the big issue that we have to deal with.

□ 1530

CONGRESS HAS BEEN GROSSLY IRRESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Congress is set to take the longest recess in memory with critical national priorities, even emergencies, unaddressed.

Three weeks ago on the floor of this House, we engaged in civil disobedience to protest the carnage of gun violence in our country and the disgrace of congressional inaction in the face of that.

Republican leadership was prevented by their Freedom Caucus from putting even a token measure on the floor. But we will not rest until we are able to keep guns out of the hands of prospective terrorists and are able to have effective background checks.

And now, incredibly, the Zika crisis is upon us. Months ago this should have been addressed. I convened researchers and government officials from my area, which is a research hub, to talk about the heroic efforts underway to find out how to prevent the spread of this virus, to understand how to develop a vaccine. Heroic work is going on. People are moving money around, dealing with the absence of a steady funding stream.

We have let our people down. A public health crisis is coming. Congress has been grossly irresponsible in failing to provide steady and sure emergency funding for what is surely going to be a desperate public health emergency.

ANNIVERSARY OF SANDRA BLAND'S DEATH

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Congress to stay in session to take action against public health crises that are plaguing our country.

As the only Ph.D. scientist in Congress, I find it deeply disturbing that Congress has failed to act in the face of clear evidence: 91 Americans die from gunshot wounds every day; since 2014, more than 28,000 Americans have died from opioid overdoses; dangerous levels of lead are present in the drinking water of thousands of American families; and the Zika virus is a global health crisis that is now reaching our shores. Too many Americans are dying from senseless, but preventable, causes.

I represent the 11th District of Illinois, and this week marked the 1-year anniversary of another senseless death. Sandra Bland was a beloved member of our community. She died 1 year ago yesterday, alone in a Texas jail, after she was arrested for a minor traffic violation.

After 3 days in jail, Ms. Bland was found dead in her cell. The coroner ruled it a suicide, but we still don't