

checks. This is a reform that the members of the Newtown community have asked our elected leaders to support. It is a reform supported by over 90 percent of the American people, and it is shameful that we have not yet had a chance to vote.

Yet, in spite of that obstruction and misinformation, these families and this community have refused to give up. On Tuesday, I was honored to again meet with several of the Newtown families as they traveled here to continue to lead the push for commonsense gun laws, and I'm honored that several members of that community of the Newtown Alliance are with us here in the gallery today.

In meeting with the families, I was given pictures of their loved ones that they've been handing out to elected officials from across the country.

This photo of school psychologist Mary Sherlach reads:

One of six educators who, on December 14, became first responders equipped with just their lives. Can you show the same courage with your vote?

On this card, we have a picture of Dylan Hockley, with these words:

Honor his life. Stand with us for change. Now is the time.

Here's the picture of precious Dylan Hockley.

With this card, we have the photo of 6-year-old Benjamin Wheeler, who asks:

What is worth doing?

Mr. Speaker, these words, these faces, these lives mark the call to action for Newtown. They mark the call to action in Hartford and Aurora, Chicago, Santa Monica, and every community torn apart by gun violence.

The sad truth is that this Congress has not met this call to action. This Congress has not shown the courage to pass commonsense gun reforms. But the good news is that it is not too late for this Congress to do better, and now is the time.

We must do better for Mary. We must do better for Dylan. We must do better for Benjamin and for Charlotte, for Daniel and Olivia, for Josephine, for Ana and for Madeleine, for Catherine, for Chase and for Jesse, for James, for Grace and for Emilie, for Jack, for Noah and for Caroline, for Jessica, for Avielle and for Allison, for Rachel, Dawn, and Anne Marie, for Lauren and Victoria.

We can and we must do better.

These families cannot forget and will not give up. Neither can we.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Members are reminded that it is not in order to refer to occupants of the gallery.

EXTEND TAMP COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for those serving our

country in uniform, transitioning to civilian life can be a stressful process, especially when the transition is involuntary or unexpected.

Currently, the Transitional Assistance Management Program, or TAMP, offers 180 days of health care coverage to certain servicemembers transitioning from military service to help bridge the insurance gap until coverage can be secured through employment or outside the service.

In many instances, traumatic brain injury symptoms do not appear until 8 to 10 months after deployment, and it is important that these individuals have mental health care access during that time.

This week, during the debate over the National Defense Authorization Act, I've offered two amendments, one of which would extend the TAMP coverage for servicemembers by an additional 180 days for any treatment provided through telemedicine.

Through the expansion of telemedicine, we can offer greater access to health care while lowering the cost. It's time we fully utilize these new technologies, which is why I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. This commonsense, zero-cost reform will help those who serve our country transition to civilian life without unnecessary burden or undue delay.

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TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT IS LONG OVERDUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks of my dear colleague from Connecticut, ELIZABETH ESTY, who has done such a remarkable job in representing that district and especially the families of Newtown, Connecticut, in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, the time for us to act is long overdue. The hard truth for the United States Congress is, as Congressman MIKE THOMPSON pointed out, since Newtown, 5,000 Americans have lost their lives at the point of a gun; 5,000 Americans since Newtown.

The United States Congress has a responsibility to act and do its constitutionally obligated desire to get this bill passed. Now, whether you believe this is the correct course of action or not, as the President said in his State of the Union message, you still have a responsibility to vote. This is a democracy. Every day that we delay a vote on this bipartisan bill, Congress is complicit—Congress is complicit—in the deaths of those American citizens who wait for action as Congress sits by as 5,000 more victims die at the point of a gun.

I commend the families of Newtown, and the whole world was heartened

when Mark Barton stepped out into the Rose Garden with the President of the United States and reiterated a phrase that has held them all together: that their hearts are broken, along with those of the entire world as we look down at this tragedy, but their spirit is not. And they are undaunted in their determination, driven by the memories of those teachers and administrators and students who died so tragically. They—both students and teachers—were willing to stand in the way of violence, and the United States Congress can't do its constitutional responsibility and stand up and vote?

All of us in America watched as the United States Senate, with families in the gallery, voted on background checks that 91 percent of the American people agree with, voted it down. No teacher in America could explain the next day how the vote was 54-46, and it lost. Citizens all across this country take heed: do not give up. Continue to fight this fight. Fight what's wrong with Congress about not taking votes when they should and about a system in the Senate where a majority prevails and a vote goes down because of the cloture rule, an arbitrary rule in the United States Senate.

The outrage has to start outside of this building because here in this building, people remain complicit in the acts that will only continue to take place if Congress does not take action.

PREVENTING FUTURE SHOOTING TRAGEDIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we observe the sixth-month anniversary of the senseless and tragic murders at Sandy Hook Elementary School. We will never forget what happened in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 14, 2012, just as we will never forget what happened in Tucson, in Oak Creek, Virginia Tech, Portland, Milwaukee, and Columbine. As we remember the precious lives lost, we must also renew our determination to work together to make sure that such a tragedy never happens again.

As a survivor of the Tucson shooting that took place on January 8, 2011, as a grandfather of children the same age as those who were slaughtered in Newtown, and as a Member of Congress, I am committed to taking the reasonable action to make sure that we prevent future deaths and injuries from such mass shootings.

After the awful shooting and deaths in Newtown, the Sunday following I was reading the newspaper about the tragedy, and I saw a photograph of one of the children that was killed. As I looked at that photograph of this little 6-year-old girl, looking back at me from that page was my granddaughter that was the same age. I have to tell you that I sobbed, along with my wife. I think no grandparent and no parent