

Many of these incidents are suicide, but they are all linked by the simple fact that they involve a firearm because in the United States of America a group of ideologues have hidden behind misguided readings of the Constitution and make guns available to everyone imaginable, even folks on the terrorist watch list.

The reality is that gun violence is an epidemic, and the NRA, along with those who blindly follow it, are deeply out of touch. When another tragedy strikes, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle reliably call for moments of silence right here on the floor. While I support remembering victims, I cannot support silence where action is needed. Silence, Mr. Speaker, is what keeps weapons on our streets. Silence is the reason we have lost friends, sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters. Silence is why we are the only developed nation in the world with this problem.

The President has put forward a set of executive actions that make sense at the most basic level, from strengthening background checks and bolstering enforcement to improving mental health services and research on gun safety. The simple, commonsense measures President Obama announced this week will save countless lives.

It is now up to us here in Congress to take the baton. Mr. Speaker, it is common sense that someone who is not allowed to fly because they are a suspected terrorist shouldn't be able to get a gun. It is common sense to ensure a standard uniform background check before someone can purchase a weapon. It is common sense that you should have to present identification to buy bullets, and it is time for our colleagues to stand up for common sense.

As the President said, we need to do it with the fierce urgency of now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GUN VIOLENCE AND GUN CONTROL IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey, and I thank her for guiding us over the past couple of minutes dealing with an important issue.

Let me quickly move us forward because, in just a few minutes, the President of the United States will join with a number of Americans on a very important townhall meeting dealing with the question of this very important issue of gun violence.

Today I rise as the ranking member of the Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, but I rise also, as my col-

league, as a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus that has been at the leadership. I thank both Chairman GRIJALVA and Chairman ELLISON for their leadership and the opportunity for this time.

Again, much was made of the fact that the President, in his last term, or his last year, sought to take on this very complicated issue. Much was made of the fact that the President chose gun violence as something that he took a personal and emotional interest in.

Let me be very clear. There is never a time that is too short a time to confront the horrors of gun violence in this country. Let me give you simply an example of what we face not with adults who have confronted each other with a gun, but toddlers who are getting shot on a weekly basis. For example, a 2-year-old in South Carolina found a gun in the backseat of the car he was riding in and accidentally shot his grandmother, who was sitting in the passenger's seat.

I found at least 43 instances this year of somebody being shot by a toddler 3 or younger. In 31 of these 43 cases, a toddler found a gun and shot himself or herself. These stories are emotional and they are real. In one instance, a 3-year-old managed to wound both of his parents with a single gunshot at an Albuquerque motel. Shootings by toddlers have happened in 24 States so far this year.

There is a story that comes to mind dealing with a little boy, a loving little boy in Kentucky who accidentally shot his 2-year-old sister to death. Why? Because someone gave him a gun made by a manufacturer who made guns for children.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not here to make moral judgments. That is something that I would not do, give a child that is 5 years old a gun. But what I am here to speak to is how we can come together, those who advocate and use guns, those who believe in open carry, those who believe in concealed weapons, those who believe in rifle shooting and deer hunting. All of that is part of the American way. There is no angst with that.

What I am saying and what the President is saying with a tearful, emotional plea that he made just a few days ago is that we in America can do better. The Constitution says we can do better. The Declaration of Independence says we can do better. The First Amendment clearly provides us the access and the rights of free speech and movement, and the Second Amendment is clear that we do have a right to bear arms.

Many of us historically believe that that was, of course, an amendment put in place to protect the beginning Founding Fathers and Mothers, if you will, in these early Colonies and to make sure that they were not overrun by the British. But it is still a standing amendment, and it takes a procedure for it to be undermined, which is the

argument that I make for those who continuously raise the fact that the President and those of us who believe in gun safety or gun regulation—which is not controlled—are, in fact, trying to diminish the Second Amendment. We are not.

But what we are trying to do is to do as the President has suggested: keep guns out of the wrong hands through background checks. For example, unfortunately, the tragedy in South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, where a crazed individual wanted to provoke a race war, worshipped with nine parishioners at Mother Emanuel Church, sat and prayed with the pastor, a distinguished senator, and those other loving saints, then sprayed bullets and killed nine of them, that individual had items in his background that should have warranted him not getting a gun.

But what happened under law? The storekeeper, the gunshop owner, after 3 days when that particular affirmation or approval had not come, he gave the gun anyway. Foolish. It is so very foolish. There should be an extensive requirement that there is a background check when you are buying a gun on the Internet or other places we are exchanging guns.

The President recognizes those kind of loopholes and wishes to avoid those kind of loopholes. The ATF is making clear that it doesn't matter where you conduct business—from a store, at a gun show, or over the Internet—if you are in the business of selling firearms, you must get a license and conduct background checks. It baffles me why some people have said that won't make any difference. Yes, it will, because a lot of times in gun shows people who are here to do wrong are, in fact, going to be taking any easy way to get guns.

Let me cite you an example. I always hear that those cities who have rigid gun laws, it doesn't matter. This is the argument I get from my friends in the NRA, and I call them my friends because I hope one day we will sit down at the table of engagement and collaboration because that is the American way.

Let me give you the statistics that make sense. New York has strong gun laws, and Governor Cuomo implemented some stronger gun laws after certain tragedies occurred in his State. But here are the statistics that argue and refute and extinguish the argument of the NRA: 70 percent of the guns recovered by police in New York State in 2013 originated out of the State. The gun laws in New York are working, but because of their neighbors, they are suffering. That is why we need to have a regulated system that doesn't take people's guns away, but provides the safety and security that the American people determine.

I didn't say, Mr. Speaker, that 70 percent of the guns found in the hands of law-abiding citizens were from out of State. I said 70 percent of the guns that the New York City, NYPD, that has a

great deal of respect across this Nation as one of the top accredited law enforcement agencies, 70 percent of those that they found were black-market guns coming into that State from elsewhere. That is a tragedy.

I will tell you for sure that some of those guns were used to maim and kill and to fight in gun battles in the streets because we allow the kind of selling of guns without background checks and people going off and getting gun sales in the back of cars. We know that that has happened.

ATF has finalized a rule to require background checks for people trying to buy some of the most dangerous weapons and other items through a trust corporation or other legal entity. Whatever we might say, I don't believe that it is relevant for us to have the AK-47s just walking up and down the street, even if you want to say you believe in open carry.

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Also, overhauling the background check system to make it more effective and efficient. It is worth noting how many background checks are done. Make this 24 hours, 7 days a week. Maybe that would have prevented, I think, the tragedy in South Carolina. Make our communities safe from guns. Call on U.S. Attorneys to explain to people about gun safety.

When I was on the Houston City Council, I introduced the first gun ordinance in a city—that gun safety ordinance is in place today—which was to hold parents responsible for children getting guns and shooting someone. Why? Because those guns should have been secured. There is nothing unconstitutional about regulating and saving the lives of children.

Also, introducing 200 new ATF agents. I am very proud that Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY and myself—and we invite my colleagues to join in this legislation—introduced legislation that would, in fact, provide for 200 additional Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosive agents and investigators to enforce gun laws. This is the very same thing that Republicans have been talking about. It is H.R. 4316. I invite my colleagues to join in that legislation to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Let me say that, in addition, we want to make sure that we are highlighting the importance of receiving complete criminal history records and criminal dispositions. We want our States to be collaborative. Send to us the accurate records of those who perpetrate a crime in your community. That is making this particular background check more effective. We are going to do the heavy lifting 24 hours, 7 days a week with better technology.

Make our communities safe, as I said. Teach about gun safety. Increase mental health treatment and reporting. We are talking about \$500 million. The President needs our collaboration.

I am very glad that we have also introduced, along with Congresswoman

BASS, the authority to authorize funding to increase access to mental health care treatment in order to reduce gun violence.

In the aftermath of the President's speech, I heard all of this talk about how we should be getting involved in gun violence and we should be talking about gun violence. I heard one Presidential candidate saying that we should be looking for the criminally ill. Well, what do you think this is?

The President is asking for help from the ATF, and now he is asking for grants and the resources to deal with the criminally ill or those who are suffering from mental health issues and to stop them from committing gun violence, the very circumstance that occurred with respect to the horrificity of Sandy Hook.

And as I hold up this poster board—the individual ultimately took his life and the life of his mother—can we imagine these babies that lost their lives? In fact, we understand that some of those law enforcement officers could barely stand up as they went in and looked at the carnage. Certainly, that individual was known to have suffered from some form of mental illness. There should have been an intervention there.

The President is asking for resources to help us with those who are suffering from mental health issues. He wants the Social Security Administration, as indicated, to begin a rulemaking process to include information about beneficiaries who are, in fact, suffering from mental health needs.

This is not an invasion of privacy. This is information. This is not knocking on the door of those who are suffering from mental health concerns. But it is helping us be more effective if that individual seeks to purchase a gun.

We want to shape the future of gun safety technology. The President directed the Departments of Homeland Security—which I am on—Defense, and Justice to conduct or sponsor research. Guns can be more safe. If a child gets a gun in their hand, there can be more detail to pulling that trigger.

The little boy that shot his sister, there was one bullet left in that gun. The parents didn't know it. It was left in a corner. He picked it up. It was his toy gun. He is a child.

We need to be able to be responsive and start boxing each other and get around the same circle of improvement. Keeping guns out of the wrong hands through background checks is what the President has offered.

Then, of course, we need to work to make our communities safe from gun violence by hiring 230 additional NICS examiners and other staff to assist with processing mandatory background checks.

I think I mentioned the mental health resources that I think are so very important. I would also suggest that we ensure federally that people keep their guns safe. It is very crucial that we insist that guns are safe.

Let me also indicate that Mr. CLYBURN has a very important initiative—he represents the district where the tragedy occurred in South Carolina—to get rid of this 3-day check and to make sure that everyone has a background check, no matter what is occurring.

Let me finish, Mr. Speaker, with indicating the gun-related homicides in this country. The rate of gun-related homicides in the U.S. is far higher than that of other large and affluent countries. Are they any less stronger than we are? We have the highest number of homicides done by guns.

We have Italy, Taiwan, Canada, Spain, Germany, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, South Korea, and Japan. Even with the terrorist activities, they are way below America. And you can see here the 353 mass shootings in America in 2015. All of those are by guns.

If you are too dangerous to fly, you are too dangerous to buy a gun in America. I have the no-fly for foreign terrorists. But, more importantly, we had legislation that Mr. KING sponsored, I believe, and others that just simply said: If you are on the no-fly list, you can't have a gun.

I want to find common ground, but most of all, I want to save lives. Here today I am saying to my colleagues that we are not saving lives if we are not sitting at the table of involvement.

I will include in the RECORD a whole list of legislative initiatives about gun storage and safety devices and firearms transfer reporting, which is similar to what happened in South Carolina, where this gentleman got a gun—effectively, he would not have been approved—also, one on establishing a select committee on gun violence and gun violence research—these are by other Members—also, recognizing gun violence is a public health emergency, and coming back to allow the Centers for Disease Control to finally do research on the impact of gun violence.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION & LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

1. H.R. 4315 (Rep. Jackson Lee)—Mental Health Access and Gun Violence Prevention Act—authorizes \$500 million for mental health treatment access and to assist in the reporting of relevant disqualifying mental health information to the FBI's background check system NICS.

2. H.R. 4316 (Rep. Jackson Lee)—Gun Violence Reduction Resources Act—authorizes the hiring of 200 additional ATF agents and investigators for enforcement of existing gun laws.

3. H.R. 47 (Rep. Jackson Lee), Gun Storage And Safety Devices For All Firearms Act, a bill directing the Attorney General to enforce that any firearm transferred to a person who is not a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer must provide a secure gun storage or safety device.

4. H.R. 3125 (Rep. Jackson Lee), Accidental Firearms Transfers Reporting Act, a bill directing the Federal Bureau of Investigations to report to Congress semiannually the number of firearms transfers resulting from the failure to complete a background check within 3 business days, and the procedures followed after it is discovered that the firearm transfer has been made to an ineligible person.

5. H.R. 3051 (Rep. Clyburn, James, SC-6) Background Check Completion Act: a bill to eliminate the requirement that a firearms dealer transfer a firearm if the national instant criminal background check system has been unable to complete a background check of the prospective transferee within 3 business days.

6. H. Res. 467 (Rep. Thompson, Mike (CA-5) Establishing the Select Committee on Gun Violence Prevention, responsible for issuing a final report and recommendations, including legislative proposals within 60 days of its establishment.

7. H.R. 3926 (Rep. Honda, Michael, CA-17) Gun Violence Research Act, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for better understanding of the epidemic of gun violence.

8. H.R. 224 (Rep. Kelly, Robin, IL-2) the Recognizing Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency Act: To help us learn more about the true public health impact of domestic gun violence, and provide us with the data we need to make sound recommendations to make our communities safer.

9. H.R. 225 (Rep. Kelly, Robin, IL-2) Firearm Safety Act of 2015: to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to remove from the definition of "consumer product" the exclusion for any article sold by a manufacturer, producer, or importer that would be subject to a firearms sales tax under the Internal Revenue Code for pistols, revolvers, and other firearms, including shells and cartridges, thereby permitting the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue safety standards for such articles.

10. H.R. 226 (Rep. Kelly, Robin, IL-2) Keeping Guns from High Risk Individuals Act: A bill to amend the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to prohibit the sale or disposition of a firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person: has been convicted of a crime of violence in the previous 10 years; is under age 25 and has been adjudicated as an adult as having committed a crime of violence; has been convicted on 2 separate occasions in any period of 3 consecutive years in the last 10 of an offense that has the possession or distribution of alcohol or a controlled substance as an element; or has been convicted of stalking. And further prohibits any such person from shipping or transporting in interstate or foreign commerce, or possessing in or affecting commerce, any firearm or ammunition; or receiving any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

11. H.R. 1217 (Rep. King, Peter, NY-2) Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015: A bill to amend the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to reauthorize for FY2016-FY2019 the grant program for improvements to the criminal history record system, and establishes the National Commission on Mass Violence to study the availability and nature of firearms, including the means of acquiring firearms, issues relating to mental health, and the impacts of the availability and nature of firearms on incidents of mass violence or in preventing mass violence.

12. H.R. 2767 (Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr., GA-4), Airport Security Act of 2015: Directs the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to establish a program to prohibit all but specified authorized individuals from possessing a firearm at a covered airport, including any individual who enters the airport, or exits public transportation at it, for air travel, meeting another individual, picking up cargo, or employment.

13. H.R. 3497 (Rep. Engel, Elliot, NY), Protect Law Enforcement Armor (PLEA) Act: To ban the sale of the FN Five-seveN and

other armor-piercing handguns and ensure new weapons like it stay off our streets.

14. H. RES. 520 (Rep. Lawrence, Brenda, MI-14), Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal firearms laws should be rigorously enforced, that all appropriate measures should be taken to end the flood of unlawfully purchased firearms into our communities, and that adequate resources should be provided to accomplish such purposes.

15. Member, Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

16. Panelist, Congressional Roundtable on Gun Violence in Communities of Color and Combating 'Bad Apple' Gun Dealers

17. Congressional Letter, urging major news broadcasters to raise greater awareness to the high number of casualties by guns that occur every day by broadcasting a list of names and photos of victims in every state.

18. Congressional Letter, requesting a meeting with the United States Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, to discuss alternate gun crime and violence prevention policies.

19. Congressional Letter, requesting Executive Action by President Barack Obama to clarify what it means to be 'engaged in the business' of selling guns in order to prevent unlicensed sellers from engaging in the sale of guns without background check.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. If we don't stand together, then the long litany of children that have died by gun violence, Mr. Speaker, will continue.

The only thing that will stop this is for us to recognize that we have gun deaths, gun deaths by justified homicide and criminal homicide, mass shootings, mental health shootings with guns, and suicide, guns and domestic violence.

The only thing that will happen is that it will continue. Does anyone want this kind of massacre to continue at the hands of someone using a gun?

Some of the aspects of what the President has presented—background checks, mental health resources, ATF, FBI—200 more—if we join together, I can assure you America can find her comfortable place in the sun with a wonderful Constitution and democracy, where all of us, no matter what our philosophy, what our political party, can come around the issue of saving lives.

I am pleased to join my colleagues of the Congressional Progressive Caucus in this important Special Order on universal child care and gun violence in America.

I would like to thank Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for convening this evening's Special Order and for her dedicated leadership on critical issues impacting children and working families, including this evening's topic of universal childcare and gun safety.

As we turn to the topic of gun violence in America, I would also like to thank President Obama for his leadership and for helping to bring this issue to the forefront of our national priorities.

Gun violence in America can no longer be swept under the rug, ignored or irrationally justified.

We are in a state of national crisis and it is time to act.

Upon taking office, every Member of Congress makes a solemn pledge: to protect and defend the American people.

This is the most important oath we take as elected officials—and, to honor this promise, we must do everything in our power to stem gun violence in our nation.

Yet, after another mass shooting and countless acts of gun violence in communities across our country every day, House Republicans are still unwilling to act to stop gun violence and save lives in American communities.

The Democrats have been calling for an immediate vote on the bipartisan King-Thompson Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act to strengthen the life-saving background checks that keep guns out of the wrong hands.

This Congress has a moral obligation to do our part to end the gun violence epidemic.

Now is the time for Republicans to join Democrats in protecting the lives of Americans by taking common sense steps to save lives.

The Administration has announced two new executive actions that will help strengthen the federal background check system and keep guns out of the wrong hands.

I have introduced two bills that will hopefully enhance these executive actions and support the President's recently announced action on gun violence.

H.R. 4315—Mental Health Access and Gun Violence Prevention Act—authorizes \$500 million for mental health treatment access and to assist in the reporting of relevant disqualifying mental health information to the FBI's background check system NICS.

H.R. 4316—Gun Violence Reduction Resources Act—authorizes the hiring of 200 additional ATF agents and investigators for enforcement of existing gun laws. The President included these specific requests in yesterday's announcements and these bills respond to those requests.

Additionally, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is proposing a regulation to clarify who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law for reasons related to mental health.

And the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is issuing a proposed regulation to address barriers preventing states from submitting limited information on those persons to the federal background check system.

Ending gun violence in America requires a comprehensive approach—we must come together and work towards this common goal.

Too many Americans have been severely injured or lost their lives as a result of gun violence.

While the vast majority of Americans who experience a mental illness are not violent.

However, in some cases when persons with a mental illness does not receive the treatment they need, the result can be tragedies such as homicide or suicide.

We must continue to address mental health issues by:

Supporting expanded coverage of mental health services and enhanced training and hiring of mental health professionals; and

Continuing the national conversation on mental health to reduce stigma associated with having a mental illness and getting help; and

We must also continue to do everything we can to making sure that anyone who may pose a danger to themselves or others does not have access to a gun.

The federal background check system is one of the most effective ways of assuring that

such individuals are not able to purchase a firearm from a licensed gun dealer.

To date, background checks have prevented over two million guns from falling into the wrong hands.

The Administration's two new executive actions will help ensure that better and more reliable information makes its way into the background check system.

The Administration, however, has acknowledged the need for collective action and continues to call upon Members of Congress to pass common-sense gun safety legislation and to expand funding to increase access to mental health services.

I too call upon my colleagues to come together and pass legislation that will help stop the loss of innocent lives.

While we have made some progress in strengthening the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which is used to run background checks on those who buy guns from federally licensed gun dealers to make sure they are not prohibited by law from owning a firearm, we must do more.

I am a strong supporter of a right of privacy and I am particularly sensitive and protective of patient privacy rights.

I support the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act that was passed by Congress in 1996, and includes privacy protection for medical records, which includes mental healthcare information.

However, there are specific areas under federal law that allow the disclosure of medical information to authorities, and in these instances there should be an agreement that when a person poses a threat to themselves or others (as determined by a court or adjudicative authority with the medical and legal knowledge and authority to make a determination that a person poses a threat to themselves or to others) should not be allowed to purchase a fire arm.

Technology that could be deployed to access court records and arrest records as they relate to mental health and violent behavior should not rely upon a list that may become outdated or could be used in ways that are not consistent with the intent of enhancing gun safety.

The ability to access information that is accurate and available for the limited purpose of affirming or rejecting a request to purchase a firearm without indicating the source of the decision or the reason for the rejection would still protect privacy rights while also protecting the public.

The president's proposal on mental health and gun violence is to enforce the laws already in place.

Under a federal law enacted in 1968, an individual is prohibited from buying or possessing firearms for life if he/she has been "adjudicated as a mental defective" or "committed to a mental institution."

A person is "adjudicated as a mental defective" if a court—or other entity having legal authority to make adjudications—has made a determination that an individual, as a result of mental illness: 1) Is a danger to himself or to others; 2) Lacks the mental capacity to contract or manage his own affairs; 3) Is found insane by a court in a criminal case, or incompetent to stand trial, or not guilty by reason of lack of mental responsibility pursuant to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

A person is "committed to a mental institution" if that person has been involuntarily com-

mitted to a mental institution by a court or other lawful authority. This expressly excludes voluntary commitment.

It should be noted, however, that federal law currently allows states to establish procedures for mentally ill individuals to restore their right to possess and purchase firearms (many states have done so at the behest of the National Rifle Association, with questionable results).

It is undoubtedly true that people who are a danger to self and/or others because of mental illness should be prohibited from owning firearms.

It is less clear, however, how to tailor new policies to better protect the American public while at the same time avoiding the stigmatization of Americans with mental illness.

Any strategy to address the lethal intersection between guns and mental illness should focus of the key facts:

On average, more than 100,000 people in America are shot in murders, assaults, and other crimes.

More than 32,000 people die from gun violence annually, including 2,677 children under the age of eighteen years old.

Suicide is the leading cause of gun related deaths in America.

60 percent of deaths by guns in America are the result of individuals using these weapons as a means to commit suicide.

Some of these deaths might have been prevented if there were adequate background checks.

Each year hundreds of law enforcement officers lose their lives to gun violence been shot to death protecting their communities.

Millions of guns are sold every year in "no questions asked" transactions and experts estimate that 40 percent of guns now sold in America are done so without a background check.

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) was created in 1998 to require potential gun buyers to pass an instant screening at the point of purchase.

Ensures that purchasers are not felons, domestic abusers, mentally ill, etc.

NICS has blocked sales to more than 2 million prohibited people.

NICS stops 170 felons and 53 domestic abusers from purchasing guns every day.

The most serious issue facing NICS is the "private sale loophole".

This allows anyone who is not a federally-licensed dealer to sell guns without a background checks.

An estimated 40% of gun transfers—6.6 million transfers—are conducted without a background check.

Armslist.com is the largest online seller of firearms.

66,000 gun ads are posted by private sellers on a given day, 750,000 per year.

Nearly 1/3rd of gun ads on Armslist.com are posted by high-volume unlicensed sellers (approx. 4,218 people).

High-volume sellers posted 29% of the gun ads.

High-volume sellers posted 36,069 gun ads over 2 months.

This would equate to around 243,800 guns each year by unlicensed sellers.

50% were familiar with federal laws but decided they didn't apply to them.

1/3rd of "want-to-buy" ads are posted by people with a criminal record.

More than 4 times the rate at which prohibited gun buyers try to buy guns in stores.

Approximately 25,000 guns are in illegal hands.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AUTONOMY VERSUS RELATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I was listening to a talk show one day when a 13-year-old girl called in. She was confused. At that tender age, to put it mildly, she talked about how she had been walked all over by her peers and subjected to the exploitation of an older man. She had no sufficient sense of self-possession to know that she had been used. She had no community support, no adult around her to protect her.

The radio commentator was aghast. But, sadly, Mr. Speaker, this was another troubling example of a culture of exploitation that is raging all around us today.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is a bit of light on the horizon. In a few weeks, tens of thousands of young people from around the country will assemble around this Capitol to deliver a simple message.

These young people are saying this: They will no longer tolerate the indifference. They will no longer tolerate a culture of exploitation. They will no longer tolerate the darkness of the abortion industry.

They are members of the generation that have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences when wrong ideas take hold in a society, when the smartest people in the land—the Supreme Court Justices—are misguided and do not value all lives, when certain industries profit from pain.

These young people are saying that women deserve better than abortion. They are saying that children should be welcome, no matter how hard the circumstances. They are saying that no one should be abandoned. There should be no choice between a child and that child's mother.

Mr. Speaker, it is understandable that many people are reluctant to enter into arguments about abortion. It is difficult. It is painful. So many people have experienced this individually or with family members. But we have to be honest.

Mr. Speaker, if you look behind me at the dais here, you can see the words "peace," "liberty," and "justice." We have these words all around our Nation's capital, our Nation's monuments.

But, in truth, we cannot find peace in a society that does not protect its most innocent lives. We cannot find liberty when we are indifferent to one another and simply turn away when a woman