unprecedented degree, despite clear opposition and legal barriers.

In fact, in 2012, the Supreme Court condemned EPA's practice of using the law to persecute farmers and ranchers with absolutely no proof or due process offered to these landowners.

Again, early this year, the Supreme Court shut down EPA's ongoing attempts to exempt their actions limiting property rights from traditional challenges, one of our Nation's most fundamental rights.

This is not a fight over clean water; it is a fight about Federal control. The creators of this law never intended for bureaucrats to have control of nearly every ditch, puddle, or pond they can get their hands on, while trying to regulate everyday activities like plowing, explicitly exempted under the law. Yet we continue to see this administration use their own very imaginative interpretations to harass property owners.

It is certainly unfortunate we have to pass additional legislation to require bureaucrats to stay within the law, but that is what we will do. I have an amendment in the appropriation bill just passed that will help do that and rein it in.

YET CONGRESS HAS DONE NOTHING

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, in the face of extraordinary suffering, we are not asking for extraordinary courage from Members. We are asking for commonsense measures most Americans support.

Thousands of children in Flint have been exposed to lead, yet Congress has done nothing. Over 4,000 Americans have been infected with Zika ahead of peak mosquito season, yet Congress has done nothing. Gun violence in America is an epidemic, killing over 30,000 Americans each year, yet Congress has done nothing.

It is cowardly to return to our constituents for 7 weeks without action. It is cowardly for this majority to run from our responsibilities because they are scared of the NRA when Americans consistently live in fear of gun violence.

This House has done nothing to address these real, widespread concerns. We should not recess without taking action for the American people.

ST. THOMAS MORE

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, on June 22, it was the feast day of St. Thomas More. I was unable to get to the House floor that day, so I am going to tell you a little bit about him today.

Sir Thomas More was known in the early 1500s as a Renaissance man who was an English lawyer, author, social philosopher, and a statesman. More is most notably known for his opposition to King Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church and refusing to acknowledge King Henry as the supreme head of the Church of England.

Thomas More was later convicted of treason and lost his own head in 1535.

St. Thomas More was canonized in 1935 by Pope Pius XI and was hailed by Pope John Paul II as the ''heavenly patron of statesmen and politicians.''

At a time when our country faces deep partisan divides, let us look toward St. Thomas More for guidance and strength. In the words of St. More, ''When statesmen forsake their own private consciences for the sake of their public duties, they lead their country by a short route to chaos.''

LET'S REVIEW THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN RECORD

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, well, as the House Republicans flee town, let's just take a minute to review their record: no budget; no vote on gun violence measures; no Zika funding; no Flint, Michigan, fix; no VA appeals overhaul; no long-term FAA reauthorization; no Voting Rights Act.

But, wait, they did do a few things. They voted to make our air and water dirtier, to degrade our environment, to interfere with a woman's healthcare choices, to roll back ObamaCare, to reinstitute discrimination in our laws. They even voted to screw elephants and polar bears. They also voted to waste millions of taxpayer dollars on hours of meaningless hearings.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, don't underestimate the American public. You can run, but you cannot hide.

GIVE THE PEOPLE A VOTE ON THE ISSUES

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I have three bills that I am a cosponsor of—reasonable bills. One is to stop suspects on the terrorist watch list from acquiring firearms; one is to require universal background checks so that we are sure that the people who do buy firearms are psychologically capable of doing so; and another bill to study the health impacts of gun violence in America.

All across my district, I have received many, many, many, many calls. From the streets of Dorchester and South Boston and the North End in the city of Boston to the historic cities of Quincy and Brockton, the city of champions; from the beautiful towns in the north of my district, like Norwood and Dedham and Walpole and Westwood to the south shore towns of Scituate, Abington, Hingham, Cohasset, and Hull, it is pretty near unanimous in my district. And the people that I represent would like to have a vote on this issue.

I think that is our job, that is our duty, and we should get to the business of taking up these bills and giving the people of the United States a vote on these issues.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ACTION

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding action to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them. Instead, the people's House has been adjourned without a single vote on commonsense, life-saving legislation.

We need to be voting on legislation that expands background checks to keep dangerous people from getting these deadly weapons.

Mr. Speaker, this commonsense, bipartisan legislation is supported by 80 percent of the American public. Give us a vote. It is past time for House Republicans to stop ignoring their voices. Instead of taking real action, Republicans are playing games with a toothless NRA bill that does nothing to keep our communities safe.

Whether it is the Flint water crisis emergency, Zika threats, or gun safety, the American people deserve action, not just thoughts and prayers and moments of silence and 7 weeks out of session. The political gamesmanship won't stop the bloodshed, won't bring clean water to Flint, or prevent the Zika virus from spreading.

Mr. Speaker, let's actually do something. Let's do something to secure our children, our families, our Nation. We should do our job, but, once again, Congress is missing in action.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS WITHOUT ACTING ON URGENT NEEDS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this do-nothing Congress is adjourning for 7 weeks without acting on our urgent public health needs: gun violence, Zika, and the Flint water crisis.

Republicans have bent to the will of the gun lobby and refused to consider bipartisan legislation to prevent gun violence.

Republicans have refused to sufficiently fund our response to the Zika virus and, instead, used this crisis as a way to advance their anti-choice agenda.

And Republicans have failed to address the long-term damage done to the children of Flint by lead-poisoned water. We should be working to fix our

water infrastructure in Flint and across America so this tragedy never happens again. And, again this week, Republicans blocked an amendment on the Interior-Environment bill to help the families of Flint.

Now Republicans are heading to a 7-week recess without doing their jobs, standing up for the health and safety of the American people.

I AM DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will recess for a 7-week district work period. Of course, I look forward to going home to Oregon to spend time with my family and meet with my constituents, but I am deeply disappointed that the House is going into recess without taking meaningful action to keep our communities safe.

It has been 1 month since 49 people were gunned down in Orlando, almost a year since 9 people were killed at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, and 3½ years since 20 children and 6 educators were murdered in Newtown. Yet Congress has taken no action to make American communities safer from gun violence.

I am disappointed that we are going back home without passing the bipartisan, commonsense, comprehensive background-check bill that is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans.

We need to fund efforts to combat Zika and help people in Flint, Michigan, and across this country who do not have access to safe drinking water. Our constituents are counting on us to keep them safe, and they deserve so much better than this congressional inaction.

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GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, every day, 91 Americans lose their lives to gun violence. Americans are fed up with Republicans' dangerous obstruction of bipartisan, commonsense gun violence legislation. House Republicans won't even allow a vote. They won't even allow a vote on the gun violence prevention laws.

Instead, we are leaving Washington, led by the empty House that you see on the Republican side, for almost 2 months, for the longest summer congressional recess in 60 years, abandoning the people who put them in office.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to provide some form of balance and relief for all those who have been victims of gun violence across this country.

We, my Democratic colleagues, have received overwhelming support across this country not only for gun enforcement from our faith leaders, but the families of those who lost lives to this epidemic of gun violence in this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for action. And the time for action is now.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I cannot believe it. I cannot believe that the Republican Members of Congress would leave Washington, the Nation's Capital, for 7½ weeks without taking a single step to respond to the real suffering, the real pain, the real hurt, the real despair of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much hurt, so much hate, so much violence. We have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to do something about gun violence. Too many of our sisters and brothers have suffered. Too many have lost their lives. They have lost too many of our children, too many of our mothers and fathers, too many of our friends and neighbors.

Where are the leaders? Do you have any courage, Republican Members of Congress? Where is your leadership?

It is a disgrace, it is a shame that you would leave Washington and not do anything about gun violence.

ZIKA FUNDING

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, a little over an hour ago, we finished voting. Right now, most of my Republican colleagues are leaving Washington for the longest summer recess in 60 years. Many Americans will be surprised to hear this. There are so many issues we have yet to address.

Do my Republican colleagues actually think we have earned this break?

We are well into mosquito season and Congress has yet to provide meaningful emergency funding to battle the spread of Zika. In the United States, we already have seen 560 cases of Zika in pregnant women and 7 babies already born with birth defects.

My Republican colleagues are leaving Washington without providing any aid to help the thousands of children suffering lead poisoning in Flint, Michigan. My colleagues are taking a 2-month vacation without lifting a finger to act on lifesaving, commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

God forbid there will be another mass shooting in the next 2 months. The American people will have a sick feeling knowing that Congress did nothing to try to prevent it.

The American people deserve better than that. We did not earn this recess, and I urge my Republican colleagues to cancel their vacations until we tackle these issues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, here in the House, the majority decides the schedule. Right now, that is the Republicans. We have met for 74 days, and now we are leaving until after Labor Day. It is unbelievable.

What haven't we done?

We have not closed the loophole to prevent gun violence or passed a bill to keep from selling assault weapons to people on the terrorist watch list. That is incredible. Maybe some people aren't surprised because of our suspicion that the NRA owns the Republican Party.

What is even more astounding is the lack of funding for Zika. We passed a measure that was half of what was requested not by the President, but by the Centers for Disease Control, the scientists. We turned our backs on their request and, incredibly, put into the measure a requirement that you can't provide birth control.

Don't you think that women who are facing the Zika virus and who want to postpone pregnancy because they don't want to have a child who is disabled should be able to get birth control?

HONORING RODOLFO PINON

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that the Republican leadership chose to adjourn the House without working to keep Americans safe from gun violence, lead poison in their water, and the Zika virus.

However, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rodolfo Pinon of Blythe, California, an outstanding leader, husband, and father in my district.

Rodolfo is a humble man with a deep and rich passion to serve others. He gives voice to the voiceless and has improved communities and changed many lives.

With Pueblo Unido, he has installed water filters to 25 mobile home parks, where too many communities face the health threat of drinking water contaminated with arsenic. He has paved 38 mobile home parks in the community, improving the quality of life of so many residents. He has helped countless hardworking and poor families find affordable housing. He is loved and is a friend and inspiration to many he has mentored.

Unfortunately, Rodolfo was recently diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. His family and loved ones are going through this terrible illness. My message is that we hope Rodolfo and his family find strength and comfort