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GUN CONTROL BILLS WOULD RESTRICT RIGHTS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to these firearms and background check bills that would not be effective in ending gun violence.

Instead, these bills would restrict the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans. Simply increasing the number of laws and adding more hurdles to lawful gun ownership does not get to the core of reducing gun violence.

These changes to the background check system won't stop criminals from obtaining firearms. Why don't we focus our efforts on smart policies that would actually reduce the number of gun deaths?

Last year, more Americans bought more guns than ever. In fact, gun ownership has grown significantly over the last 20 years, but we have also seen our violent crime rate drop over that same period. Rather than going after law-abiding citizens, let's figure out where we can work together to address the real problems here. Let us invest in solving the real policy questions we can answer instead of restricting Americans' freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose these bills.

DELIVERING ON COMMITMENT TO BUILD BACK BETTER

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the critically needed support for northern Ohioans in the American Rescue Plan, which has just passed this House.

For months, we fought to provide direct support to people across our country who were suffering during the pandemic. I am thrilled that the bill provides vital support for families, communities, essential workers, and small businesses.

The bill provides $1,400 in stimulus payments to spur our economy and help families, funding for vaccine distribution, and a historical increase of the child tax credit from $2,000 to $3,000.

Let's be clear: The Republicans' opposition demonstrates their callousness during this time of great human need. They cite the deficit. Yet, I didn't hear a peep from the other side as the national debt ballooned under previous Republican administrations.

President Bush's ill-advised wars have cost us nearly $2 trillion, and the debt increased by $676 billion. President Trump's GOP tax scam increased the deficit by $1.8 trillion, helping to lead to an increase in national debt by $7.8 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, I am so thankful to President Biden for delivering on his commitment to Build Back Better. The American Rescue Plan now goes to the President's desk for signature. I can't wait.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Democrats.

HONORING U.S. ARMY VETERAN DENNIS DAVIS

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a great West Virginia icon and U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Dennis Davis, who passed away on January 19, 2021.

Dennis was the cabinet secretary for the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance. He understood the needs of our veteran community.

Dennis had also been a member of the West Virginia State University ROTC program. I enjoyed our time together as we met with veterans all across West Virginia's Second District.

During his lifetime, Dennis was the much-admired director for West Virginia Workforce Development, an educator who helped guide citizens toward jobs, opportunities, and fulfillment in their lives.

We commemorate his leadership, his service as an Army veteran, and his dedication to our great State. May his legacy forever live on to inspire hard work, devotion, and service.

COMMEMORATING TIBETAN UPRISING DAY

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing an incredibly diverse community of individuals at home in New York 14, many of whom are Tibetan. In fact, one of the largest constituencies of Tibetans in the world makes its home in New York 14.

For decades, the Tibetan people have bravely fought for their freedom, including to seek and fight for the freedom to simply be Tibetan: to speak their language; to practice their Buddhist religion; to sustain their culture, their traditional medicine, and their land; and to live freely in their own country.

It is the responsibility of all those who value freedom of speech and expression to stand with them against gross human rights abuses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with the Tibetan residents of New York 14 and all those across the country in their righteous fight against persecution.

DELIVERING RELIEF THROUGH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Nevada's Third District.

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, we have delivered on our promise to provide the relief that is so desperately needed 1 year after the COVID–19 pandemic broke out.

The pandemic has been especially hard on my home State of Nevada. The primary pillar of our economy, travel and tourism, has been absolutely devastated. It is not just our casinos and our hotels that have been hit, but our restaurant and convention workers, our entertainment and stage workers, and our aviation workers.

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, we will save lives and get our economy back on track. We will get vaccines into arms. We will get our kids safely back into schools with the $130 billion investment to get schools open and make up for lost time in the classroom. We will get people back in jobs with the expanded PPP loans, relief for restaurants and shuttered venues, and more. And, of course, we will get money into people's pockets immediately through the direct stimulus checks.

Mr. Speaker, in short, America, help is on its way, and it couldn't be more urgently needed.

GUN SAFETY MEANS MORE EQUITABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the passionate voices born of grief that we heard from today, to join my heart with their hearts.

Gun violence robs our communities and our families of innocent lives, innocent worshippers, innocent shoppers mowed down just because they are Latinos.

I rise for the children in too many schools who have lost their classmates, for the families who mourn their young, for the students who organized and petitioned us to act against gun violence with sensible laws. I am glad we passed the gun safety legislation to stem the epidemic of gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, New Mexico has the fourth-highest gun death rate in the country. Today, we took a commonsense, critical step to keep our New Mexican, our American, children, families, and communities safe, to drive us toward a more equitable, thriving future for all.