will offer their thoughts and prayers. They will say they want to lift up the community. And then they will go back to their smoke-filled rooms and ensure the NRA and gun manufacturers that nothing will change, that they have the NRA's back.

No, Madam President, no, this isn't a case of Republicans hiding their position. They proudly tell the American people which side they are on, and America is much worse off for it. And if nothing does change, we are condemned to find ourselves right here once again very, very soon.

As I was reading the reports of the tragedy in Texas, I saw that Amanda Gorman, the young woman who mesmerized the Nation at President Biden's inauguration, tweeted:

The truth is, one nation under guns.

''One nation under guns.'' That is simply heartbreaking—heartbreaking—to think that this is the legacy that older generations are leaving behind for young Americans: ''one nation under guns.''

It doesn't have to be that way. Our parents don't need to drop their kids off at school and wonder if their kid will be next. That is in the thoughts of millions of moms and dads right now. Our citizens don't have to endure the fear of getting groceries while constantly keeping an eye behind their backs. Again, millions of Americans are worried about that right now.

Americans can make a choice. Americans can reject the Republican ''guns at all cost'' doctrine, obeisance to the NRA, not even voting for the most simple, sensitive, positive, and popular gun legislation. Americans can cast their vote in November for Senators or Members of Congress who reflect how he or she stands with guns, with this issue—this issue—at the top of the voters' lists.

In the meantime, my Republican colleagues can work with us now. I know this is a slim prospect—very slim, all too slim. We have been burned so many times before. But this is so important, and I have such a firm belief—taught to me by my late father, who passed away in November—that if you do the right thing and persist, justice will eventually prevail. But you have to keep persisting, and we will.

For that reason alone, we must pursue action and even ask Republicans again to join us—maybe, maybe, maybe. Unlikely. We have been burned in the past. But their hearts might see what is happening and join us and do the right thing. They know it is the right thing. They can work with us to craft legislation that would prevent needless loss of life. It is their choice.

As majority leader, I haven't been shy about putting bipartisan legislation on the floor for a vote, but bipartisan means both parties must engage in crafting a bill, like what happened in the House and Senate 30 years ago with the Brady law and the assault weapons ban.

Democrats have been trying to work hard with Republicans—Senator MURPHY, Senator MANCHIN—on legislation that will eventually pass and become law. The other side has refused. There are so many options available to us, so many ideas. We just need some brave Republicans to stand before history and yell ''stop,'' to think, if it was your child, your grandchild, how you would feel. Would that move you to do something—something—about this plague of guns?

Like my colleague Senator MURPHY, I refuse to believe that we cannot find a path forward. Make no mistake about it, if we can't find a good, strong bill that has bipartisan support, we will continue to pursue this issue on our own. We have no choice. It is too important. Lives are at stake.

I accept the fact that most of my Republican colleagues are not willing to do what it takes to prevent this needless loss of life. The NRA will have a hold on them. That is just a reality, unfortunately. But it is unacceptable to the American people to think that there are not 10 of my Republican colleagues, just 10—1 out of 5 over here—who would be ready to work to pass something that would reduce this plague of gun violence.

It is unacceptable that there are not 10 Members of the Republican caucus willing to save lives, find a way to do it. Yet that is where we are. That is where we are. Another week, another American community devastated by a mass shooting. All of us thinking of these 9- and 10- and 11-year-old children just shot, gone. Another American community, Uvalde, which will never recover, like the other communities before it. Will it be yet—Uvalde—another example of Republicans unwilling to do what it takes to keep Americans safe?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3807, H.R. 3967, H.R. 6833, H.R. 8, AND H.R. 1446

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand there are five bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3807) to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6833) to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish requirements with respect to cost-sharing for certain insulin products, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 8) to require a background check for every firearm sale.

A bill (H.R. 1446) to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place these bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objections having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, our country is sickened and outraged by the senseless evil that struck Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, only yesterday. According to early reports from authorities, it appears that a deranged young man tried to murder his own grandmother, then crashed his car, and then ran into an elementary school and began killing.

At least 19 young children and 2 teachers were murdered—murdered—for no apparent reason at all. These innocent kids were simply going to school. They put on their backpacks, said goodbye to their parents, and headed off for another day of learning and friendship. There were only 2 days left before summer break. And because of this maniac, at least 19 of these kids never made it home.

One of the victims was a 10-year-old girl whose father described her as ''full of life, a jokester, always smiling.'' A 10-year-old boy who loved sports and art had just received his honor roll certificate a few hours earlier. His mother says he was thrilled—thrilled—about moving up into middle school next year.

It is literally sickening—sickening—to consider the innocent young lives that were stolen by this pointless, senseless brutality; to consider the parents and families who sat waiting at the civic center, waiting to either be reunited with their son or their daughter or to learn they never would be.

The investigation is still underway. The authorities will continue to learn exactly what happened and how. In the meantime, we are also praying for the Border Patrol officer who, according to reports, was wounded after he responded to the scene, and for all the law enforcement, paramedics, and first responders whose dedication yesterday saved lives.

Most of all, the entire Nation's hearts are broken for the victims and for their families. Words simply fail.

Yesterday, the Uvalde school superintendent said:

We're a small community [and] we're going to need your prayers to get us through this.

We pray fervently that in the midst of this nightmare of grief, our Heavenly Father will make manifest to