

That is totally unnecessary for any legitimate legal purpose. It is available, perhaps, for military use, perhaps, for law enforcement but not for the ordinary American citizen who would purchase and own a gun for legitimate purposes.

Next, we need to make sure that we understand why gun violence is growing in America. The number of people who have been killed or injured just grows by the year. It is getting worse. According to a CDC report issued just last week, gun deaths increased for the second year in a row last year. There were more than 38,000 gun deaths in 2016, up from 36,000 in 2015 and from 33,500 the year before that. We are experiencing a public health crisis of gun violence in America, according to the American Medical Association.

Of course, there is no single law or policy that would prevent every shooting death, just as there is no single law or policy that would prevent every drug overdose death. But we have to start working together, on a bipartisan basis, to bring these shooting numbers down.

We need to also talk about the issue of mental health, raised by the President in response to this tragedy in Texas. The President said:

This isn't a guns situation. . . . I think that mental health is your problem here.

Despite the fact that most violence in the United States has nothing to do with mental illness, many are arguing that mental health is really the issue. What have we done in the Senate when it comes to mental health and guns this year? Senate Republicans used the CRA to repeal a regulation that directed the Social Security Administration to share mental illness information with the background check compilation of information. There was advocacy for massive cuts to Medicaid, which would throw millions of people with mental health needs off coverage. There was an attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would have allowed insurers to refuse coverage of essential health benefits, including mental health treatment. And there was a refusal to provide additional Federal funding to help provide mental health care. We don't have a very good record this year in the Senate when it comes to taking mental illness seriously, and we should.

I will also introduce a bill that I am working on to encourage more crime-gun tracing in light of last week's crime-gun trace report from the Chicago Police Department.

We focus on terrorism and what it does to our country, and we should. That is our responsibility. Anyone who would do harm to innocent Americans—as in 9/11, killing 3,000 in that particular instance—needs to be taken extremely seriously by all of us in Congress and in the White House. Foreign sources of terrorism need to be carefully watched when it comes to our border security, when it comes to background checks, and the like. But let's

be honest. More Americans are dying from Americans killing Americans with guns than by terrorist activity. It is just as much a death as any foreign terrorist threat would be, and we need to consider it just as seriously as we do when it comes to the issues of terrorism and safety for the people of America.

Why doesn't the Congress take this up? Why don't we even have a debate? I am on the Senate Judiciary Committee. We have not had a single bill this year that addresses gun safety—not one—despite the gun violence that takes place every day and despite tragedies like this tragedy over the weekend in Sutherland Springs, TX.

Every time a terrible shooting occurs, Republican leaders in Congress say now is not the time to act. And then Congress never acts.

Congress still has not acted to close the 72-hour background check loophole that allowed the Charleston church shooter to buy his gun in 2015.

Congress has done nothing to address the bump stocks that enabled the Las Vegas shooter to turn a concert into a war zone.

Congress still hasn't even addressed the gun show loophole that allowed the Columbine shooters to commit that massacre back in 1999.

Will Congress act in response to this latest tragedy? Will the Republicans who control Congress finally stand up to the gun lobby and put legislation on the floor to bring down the number of gun deaths? Or will the Republican-controlled Congress ignore this public health crisis once again?

The Republicans in Congress are rushing to pass massive changes to our tax code in a matter of weeks, and yet they refuse to do anything to prevent the next mass shooting. If the Republicans treated this gun violence epidemic with a fraction of the urgency they are showing when it comes to cutting taxes for the wealthiest one percent and the largest corporations, we could save many lives.

I pray for the victims of gun violence in this nation, but I also pray that my colleagues will act to reduce this gun violence epidemic.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on September 5, 2 months ago, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the Trump administration's repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, better known as DACA.

DACA provides temporary legal status to immigrant students if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national security background checks. It was renewable on a 2-year basis.

The young people protected by DACA are also known as Dreamers. They came to the United States as children. They grew up knowing only this country, believing this was their home and their future. Many of them in their

teenaged years were told quietly by a parent that their legal status was not the status of an American citizen. These kids, who grew up singing the Star Spangled Banner and pledging allegiance to the American flag, have no country.

It was 7 years ago that I sent a letter to President Obama, joined by Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican from Indiana. On a bipartisan basis, we asked President Obama to establish a program like the DACA Program. The President responded, and DACA has been a success. Almost 800,000 Dreamers have come forward. They have surrendered to their government the information that many of their families kept secret for years. They trusted us. They gave this information to the government and said: We want to become part of America's future, and we are willing to sign up, submit ourselves to the background check, pay our taxes, pay our filing fee, and do whatever is necessary. They trusted us. These young people who came forward and received DACA have then gone on to contribute more fully to their country. They are teachers, nurses, engineers, first responders, and servicemembers in our military.

Now, because of President Trump's announcement, the deportation clock is ticking on these young people. Beginning on March 5, 2018, not that long from now, every workday for the following 2 years approximately 1,400 Dreamers will lose their work permits and be subject to deportation. These young people who trusted our government will now, with the decision to end DACA, find themselves in an extremely vulnerable position.

When they lose their DACA protection, if they are teachers, they are forced to leave their students. If they are nurses, they are forced to leave their patients. If they are first responders, they leave their post. If they are soldiers willing to die for our country, they are forced to leave our military service.

This isn't just a looming humanitarian crisis. It is also an economic crisis. The nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy reports that DACA-eligible individuals contribute an estimated \$2 billion a year in State and local taxes. The Cato Institute, a conservative operation, estimates that ending DACA and deporting DACA recipients will cost \$60 billion and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next 10 years.

Poll after poll shows overwhelming bipartisan support for these Dreamers. Even FOX News—no liberal media outlet—recently found that 79 percent of Americans support a path to citizenship for Dreamers, including 63 percent of those who voted for President Trump. Sixty-three percent, or almost two out of three Trump supporters, supports a legal status for Dreamers.

The answer is clear. Congress needs to pass the Dream Act, and we need to

do it before we leave Washington, DC, for the holidays.

It was 16 years ago that I first introduced this bipartisan legislation to give a path of citizenship to these young people. In July I introduced the most recent version with my friend, LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican Senator from South Carolina.

Over the years I have come to the floor almost 100 times to tell individual stories of the Dreamers. These stories tell us what is at stake when we consider the fate of DACA and the Dream Act. Today, I want to tell you about Ha Eun Lee.

When she was 6 years old, her family came to the United States from Korea. She grew up in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Here is what Ha Eun says about her childhood in the United States: "I was fortunate enough to grow up learning that diversity is encouraged and differences are not just tolerated but welcomed."

Ha Eun was a good student and committed to public service. In high school she was a member of the National Honor Society, received the Principal's Academic Achievement Award, and was an Oakland Activities Association Scholar Athlete. She was a member of the track and field team during all 4 years of high school.

Ha Eun is now a senior at the University of Michigan, majoring in English. She volunteers with the Red Cross, and she is copresident of an organization called The Supply, which raises money to help students in Nairobi, Kenya, obtain an education. As copresident, Ha Eun has expanded this organization's efforts, and they are now volunteering locally near Detroit.

Ha Eun was also a policy and programs intern for the Asian Americans Advancing Justice Center.

As Ha Eun completes her last year of college, her dream is to become a lawyer. She wrote me a letter, and here is what she said:

Although I'm legally labeled as an "alien" in this country I call home, I believe I am an American. And I believe this not solely because I live, study, work and contribute to this country, but because I believe in the

core values all Americans share as a nation: liberty, justice, and prosperity.

Ha Eun and other Dreamers have so much to contribute to our country, but without DACA or the Dream Act, they will be deported back to countries where they haven't lived since they were children. Will America be stronger if we deport people like Ha Eun? I think the answer is obvious.

When we introduced the Dream Act, Senator GRAHAM said: "The moment of reckoning is coming." That moment has arrived. Congress has a responsibility to do our job and make the Dream Act the law of the land before the end of the year, before we go home for the holidays; otherwise, we will bear the responsibility for forcing hundreds of thousands of talented young immigrants out of the workforce and putting them at risk of immediate deportation.

Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are interested in finding a path to get this done. I salute all of them who in good faith have offered their help. We have to focus now. We have to come together and focus.

Many of my Republican colleagues have said that we need to put in border security elements. Count me in. Let's sit down and have an honest discussion about making our borders safer and stronger. I will gladly join that conversation. I think there are many things we can agree on that will lessen the likelihood that there will be those coming across the border in the years to come.

I recently met with the head of border security, and we talked about things that might be done. There is something called a Z Portal. I didn't know about it. It is a virtual x ray machine, a low-level radiation x ray machine that can x ray vehicles and determine whether they are secreting individuals or contraband that shouldn't be allowed in this country. He talked about one particular border crossing and said: We have a Z Portal there, but it can be used on only about one out of every five vehicles. He said: I would like to have more of them.

I think he should. Why wouldn't we make that part of border security? I

said: What about other things coming into this country, other than people?

He said: One thing we are concerned about is fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a chemical that is used to enhance the addiction of heroin, and, sadly, it is deadly. Many heroin addicts die when they lace the heroin with fentanyl and inject it, so we try at the borders to stop the importation of this fentanyl from China and other countries into the United States. I asked him about it.

He said: Sadly, we don't have enough new spectrometers, which are used to test these chemicals. We need them to stop the flow of this deadly drug into our country and to protect the men and women who are doing the actual surveillance.

Isn't that something we can agree on, on a bipartisan basis, to make our borders safer, to lessen the likelihood of people dying from the opioid heroin crisis? These are things we can do together.

Somehow we haven't been able to come up with a list of particulars from the other side of what they would like to move forward on, but I am ready, willing, and determined to get this done.

We have to do this this year. There is no excuse. There are too many lives at stake, not just the 780,000 DACA individuals but all of the people whom they are helping in their lives today. They are depending on us.

We are running out of time. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this constructive and bipartisan effort.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:11 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 10 a.m.