

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

**OPPOSE RENEWAL OF WHALING
BY MAKAH TRIBE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on an issue that millions of our people in our Nation seriously care about. Since the close of the worldwide whaling era at the end of the last century, it has been U.S. policy to oppose killing whales.

But today we have a real problem. The Clinton-Gore administration is quietly changing this policy by authorizing the hunting and killing of whales by the Makah Indian tribe in north-west Washington State.

The victims of course are the gray whales, the major focus of whale watching on the northwest coast of Washington State and the United States. These whales are local to the northwest coast, and they do not fear boats. They are used to the boats. They see boats all the time, and they have no fear.

Whales do have a commercial value and there are interests just waiting to cash in, even as they did in the glory days of worldwide commercial whaling. If we allow whaling to begin in America again, what can we say to Japan and Norway whose whaling we have opposed for years? We tried to get them to stop. Now we are going to allow commercial whaling again.

The real problem is, once we open the door to new worldwide commercial whaling, how do we ever close it again? Most Americans believe that we have risen above the wanton slaughter of the buffalo for their hides or the whales for the value of their body parts.

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I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to the renewal of whaling by the Makah Tribe of Northwest Washington State.

**SAVE OUR CHILDREN FROM GUN
VIOLENCE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SAXTON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Senate voted down a loophole that could have been closed as far as guns being sold at gun shows. This was a very moderate request so that people, people with felonies, criminals, could not go to gun shows and buy guns that could possibly be used or sold to our young people.

Last month when we had the shooting in Littleton, Colorado, it was some-

thing that all of us as victims were dreading. We always knew it was not a matter of if there would be another shooting in our schools, it all came down to a matter of when. How did I know that? I knew that because we have had five committee hearings here in the House. We have brought in all the experts. We were trying to analyze from the five shootings in our schools what could be done, what can we do.

After Littleton, the American people said, we have to do something, and yet we hear silence here in the halls of Congress and now, obviously, in the Senate. What people forget is that every single day in this country 13 of our young people die through homicide, accidental deaths and suicides. People forget about those young people on a daily basis. Here they say there is nothing we can do.

I do not believe that. I believe with sensible, moderate changes on how our young people get guns we can make a big difference. I know we will not be able to save all our children, but we certainly should do everything that we can to save as many as we can.

I also know if the American people, the mothers, the fathers, students, teachers, if they do not become involved in this debate, we will not do anything here in the House. There are many of us that want to fight to save our children, to make sure our children feel safe when they go to the schools, but we need help. We need help because we have to hear from the American people. We need grass-root organizations. We need people to call here in Congress, call their Senator, e-mail them and say, "We want something done."

When there is such a high percentage of Americans willing to make the sacrifice of being inconvenienced, inconvenienced to hopefully have more safety for our children, they are willing to do it. And yet those in the Senate and here in the House we hear nothing from. It is wrong.

All we want is to try and have safe schools, to save our children. That is something that we are supposed to be doing here. That is why I came to Congress, to reduce gun violence, not to take away the right of someone to own a gun. I have never intended that.

All I am saying is, if someone owns a gun, they are responsible for it and they have to make sure that our young people do not get into it.

I know everyone is talking about the media, videos, mental health. These are all important issues. But responsibility with the parents, that is important also. We can deal with all these things. We have all the information. Anyone can go to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and we will give them all the information they need.

There was one thing in common in every single one of the school shoot-

ings, the easy access of guns to our young people. I do not know what it will take to have the Members here and the Senate wake up. I do not know what it will take. I dread what it might take.

We can make a difference. The American people have said enough is enough. We should listen to them.

Why won't this Congress listen to the American people and allow us to pass common sense laws to keep guns out of the hands of our children?

Instead of listening to the American people, the Senate listened to the NRA leadership. Instead of making the laws stronger to stop kids and criminals from buying guns, the Senate has made the laws weaker. As a mother, grandmother and Member of Congress, I am deeply saddened by the Senate's vote.

The American people don't want this to be about politics but that's exactly what it is. How many more children will have to die before Congress wakes up and passes laws to save young lives?

We will not give up. We will fight harder for what the American people want—common sense measures to keep guns away from our kids and off our school campuses. My office alone has heard from thousands of people throughout this country who support legislation to address the deadly combination of children and guns.

Now more than ever, we need to hear from every school and from every parent in this nation. Call, write, e-mail—flood the halls of Congress with your demands—let this Congress know that you want meaningful legislation passed to save our children from gun violence. Every day that goes by with more silence from this Congress, we lose 13 more kids.

CONSUMERS NEED PATIENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THEM FROM HMO ABUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I have taken to the well of this Chamber many times to talk about the need to enact meaningful patient protection legislation. There is a compelling need for Federal action, and I am far from alone in holding that view.

Last week, for example, Paul Elwood gave a speech at Harvard University on health care quality. Paul Elwood is not a household name, but he is considered the father of the HMO movement. Elwood told a surprised group that he did not think health care quality would improve without government-imposed protections. Market forces, he told the group, "will never work to improve quality, nor will voluntary effort by doctors and health plans."

Elwood went on to say, and I quote, "It doesn't make any difference how powerful you are or how much you