



## NEWS RELEASE

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**STATE'S CONGRESSMEN LANGEVIN & CICILLINE HELP LEAD PROTEST ON U.S. HOUSE FLOOR**  
***Georgia Rep. John Lewis Leads House Dems in Sit-In Protest of GOP Failure to Address Gun Violence; R.I. Chair Joseph McNamara Praises State's Congressmen for Continued Efforts***

**WARWICK, R.I.** – Chairman Joseph M. McNamara praised Rhode Island's Congressmen David N. Cicilline and James Langevin for joining Georgia civil rights activist and Congressman John Lewis in a sit-in on the floor of the House today.

"No one could say it more eloquently than Congressman Lewis, who has passionately proven his conviction for human and civil rights through the decades," said McNamara. "His actions – and that of Rhode Island's outstanding Democratic Congressmen Jim Langevin and David Cicilline, in protesting the failure of Republicans to take measures to protect Americans from gun violence – underscored the depth of commitment they – and our Democratic Congress members - have on this most urgent issue. We are so proud of their work on our behalf."

Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI), a member of the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, joined his Democratic colleagues today to stage a sit-in, calling on Speaker Ryan to bring to the floor for a vote proposal that would expand background checks and prohibit individuals on the No-Fly List from purchasing weapons.

"These are not radical ideas. These are commonsense proposals, and the time to take action is long overdue. As the victim of an accidental shooting, I know firsthand the devastating effects that guns can have on a life, even when being handled by experts. I was lucky. I lived. The 49 innocent people killed in Orlando – and the thousands killed by guns in our country each year - did not have that chance, and

their families and friends deserve better. The vast majority of Americans support responsible gun reforms, like universal background checks, and those constituents deserve a vote.

“My colleagues on the other side of the aisle might disagree with my position, but at the very least, we should be having a robust debate on the House floor. If they believe that an individual with suspected terrorist ties, who is on the no fly list, should still be able to purchase weapons in this country, I’d very much like to hear their rationale on that vote. Our constituents deserve to know what we believe and how we will vote, and today’s sit-in sends the message that for Orlando, for Sandy Hook, and for the countless other innocent lives lost, thoughts and prayers and moments of silence are no longer enough. This issue is not going away,” Langevin said.

#### [No More Silence on Gun Violence -Rep David Cicilline](#)

In his remarks just prior to the sit-in Cicilline said, “Do not let this Chamber adjourn until we’ve voted on this critical issue. Bring these bills to the floor today. Nothing is more important than stopping the bloodshed and ensuring the safety and security of our constituents...” <https://youtu.be/Nrd1w3yUjAE>

McNamara noted that both Congressmen have displayed lifelong commitment to gun safety measures: Cicilline, as a founding member of the national Mayors Against Illegal Guns, proponent of legislation to protect citizens through gun safety laws, and Langevin for his work on the Congressional Gun violence Task Force.

#### [Rep. John Lewis - Sit-in](#)

“There comes a time when you have to say something, when you have to make a little noise, when you have to move your feet. This is the time. Now is the time to get in the way. The time to act is now. We will be silent no more,” said U.S. Representative John Lewis when he led his Democratic counterparts onto the House floor shortly after noon on Wednesday, to protest the failure of their Republican counterparts to address the rising tide of gun violence in this nation.



**\*\*\*COVERAGE INVITED\*\*\***

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Printed in-house