

ABC's *Good Morning America*

06/03/22

7:00:20 a.m. [TEASE]

33 seconds

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Overnight President Biden addresses the nation, saying that now is the time to act on guns. The President addresses the nation.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; President Biden's Urgent Plea]

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: How many more innocent American lives must be taken before we say, enough, enough?

STEPHANOPOULOS: His call for sweeping reform following yet another mass shooting. What we're learning about the rampage in Tulsa that left four people dead. As more young victims from the Uvalde school massacre will be laid to rest, the new details on both investigations and the state of play in Congress.

(...)

7:03:37 a.m.

5 minutes and 15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; President's Urgent Plea for Action on Gun Violence; Biden: "We Can't Fail the American People Again"]

STEPHANOPOULOS: First, though, President Biden's address to the nation on gun violence. Emotional and urgent. The President called on Congress to act, saying we cannot fail the American people again. Mary Bruce starts us off from the White House, good morning, Mary.

MARY BRUCE: Good morning, George. Well, this is something we rarely see from President Biden, a primetime address. But Biden knows the fight well and he knows the uphill battle he is facing here and he's trying to use the power of the presidency to keep up the pressure on Republicans in Congress. The President emotionally pleading with Washington to do something and asking the question that so many Americans ask themselves after every one of these shootings: will this finally be enough? After consecutive mass shootings, the President overnight addressing the nation with yet another desperate call for action.

BIDEN: It's time for each of us to do our part. It's time to act for the children we've lost, for the children we can save, for the nation we love.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Biden: "It's Time to Act"; President Calls for Change After More Deadly Gun Violence]

BRUCE: With bipartisan talks under way, Biden pleading for sweeping change, but also offering

alternatives.

BIDEN: If we can't ban assault weapons then we should raise the age to purchase them from 18 to 21, strengthen background checks, enact safe storage, and red flag laws, repeal the immunity that protects gun manufacturers from liability, address the mental health crisis.

BRUCE: Biden describing his proposals as common sense.

BIDEN: This isn't about taking away anyone's rights. It's about protecting children. It's about protecting families. It's about protecting whole communities.

BRUCE: After three decades of congressional inaction, Biden is painfully familiar with the difficulties of gun reform, blaming Republicans who have been standing in the way.

BIDEN: My God, the fact that the majority of the Senate Republicans don't want any of these proposals even to be debated or come up for a vote, I find unconscionable.

BRUCE: The rare primetime remarks on the heels of yet another mass shooting Wednesday, the 233rd this year. This time at a hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

TULSA PD CHIEF WENDELL FRANKLIN: This is yet another act of violence upon an American city.

BRUCE: A disgruntled patient allegedly targeting and killing his own doctor, Preston Phillips. The shooter armed with a handgun and an AR-style semiautomatic rifle bought legally just hours earlier. Another doctor, Stephanie Husen, a supervisor, Amanda Glenn, and a patient, William Love, all killed as well before the shooter turned the gun on himself. Police say he made clear in a note he wanted to kill his doctor and anyone who got in his way.

ST. FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM DR. RYAN ELIZABETH PARKER: When I woke this morning I really just wanted this to all be a bad dream, but this is the reality of our world right now

BRUCE: A reality for so many Americans on the same day 45 killed and 72 injured in 90 other shootings across the country including the killing of two women in the parking lot of a church in Iowa. The carnage renewing calls for action and now this question from the President.

BIDEN: For God's sake, how much more carnage are we willing to accept? How many more innocent American lives must be taken before we say, enough, enough?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; President's Urgent Plea for Action on Gun Violence; Biden: "We Can't Fail the American People Again"]

BRUCE: Now for all of Biden's passion, this speech was also familiar — too familiar. As Vice President, Biden was put in charge of the response and the fight for gun reforms after the

massacre at Sandy Hook when 20 children were killed and, as we all know, that effort failed and while Biden does hope that this time will finally be different, if it is not, he says then it's up to voters to make this a central issue in the midterm elections because as the President notes, the majority of Americans do want to see some change here, Michael.

MICHAEL STRAHAN: Definitely want that change, thanks, Mary. President Biden calling for that action. We're going to go to our congressional correspondent Rachel Scott for a reality check on the state of play in Congress to see if something will actually get done this time. Rachel, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening Now; Will Congress Act on Gun Violence? President Biden Calls for Sweeping Action]

RACHEL SCOTT: Michael, good morning. And you heard the President call for sweeping and broad gun reform. Some of that will be a long shot. In fact, much of the focus of the bipartisan negotiations playing out here in the Senate have been on measures that are more narrow, on the table, expanded background checks, incentives for states to enact red flag laws that would temporarily take away guns from people who are considered dangerous, funding for mental health, and school security. Democrats want to go even further. They would like to ban assault weapons outright. They would like to raise the legal age limit to purchase an AR-15-style weapon from 18 to 21 but they would need the support of at least ten Republicans in the Senate and I could tell you the vast majority of Republicans are just not on board with that. Just take a look at what happened in the House Judiciary Committee just hours ago.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening Now; Congressional Reality Check; Will Lawmakers Pass Gun Safety Measures?]

Democrats did push through a measure that includes nearly every single thing that the President is asking for, but every single Republican on that committee voted against it. Now, Senate Democrats have conceded that they may be willing to accept a smaller package if it means they could actually get something done. But if they cannot reach a deal in the next couple of days, they do plan to hold a vote to put every single senator on the record, Cecilia.

CECILIA VEGA: Yeah. They want to see those names and those votes. Okay, Rachel, thanks so much.

(...)

7:30:36 p.m.

19 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Right Now; President's Urgent Plea]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Following a lot of headlines this morning including President Biden's primetime address to the nation calling for an — a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity

magazines. Of course, that's in the wake of several recent mass shootings, including the massacre in Uvalde, Texas. The President told the American people that if Congress fails to act, voters should make this a central issue in November.

(...)

8:00:20 a.m. [TEASE]

15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Action on Gun Violence; President's Urgent Plea]

STEPHANOPOULOS: President Biden's address to the nation saying now is the time to act on guns —

BIDEN: How many more innocent American lives must be taken before we say enough, enough?

STEPHANOPOULOS: — following yet another mass shooting. This morning, the state of play in Washington.

(...)

8:02:06 a.m.

2 minutes and 28 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; President's Urgent Plea for Action on Gun Violence; Biden: "We Can't Fail the American People Again"]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to begin with the news and President Biden's address to the nation on gun violence. It was emotional and urgent. The President called on Congress to act, saying we cannot fail the American people again. Mary Bruce is at the White House, good morning, Mary.

BRUCE: Good morning, again, George. Yeah, this was a passionate plea from the President. Look, Biden knows this fight well and he knows well the uphill battles he is facing when it comes to gun reforms, but the President is hoping that speeches like this will help keep up the pressure on Republicans in Congress. The President now asking the question that so many Americans ask themselves after every one of these shootings: will this finally be enough? After consecutive mass shootings, the President overnight addressing the nation with yet another desperate call for action.

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BRUCE: Now for all of Biden's passion, this was also an all too familiar speech and while the President is hoping that this time will finally be different, if it's not, well, then he says it is up to the voters to make this a central issue in the upcoming midterm elections because, of course, as the President notes, the vast majority of Americans do want to see some change here, Cecilia.

CECILIA VEGA: Yeah, they certainly do. Okay, Mary, thanks.