

Ryan says Congress is 'united in our anguish' after shooting in Virginia

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U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan called for unity following a shooting that injured four people, including a top member of the House GOP leadership team.

The shooting occurred Wednesday morning in suburban DC at a baseball practice for Republican lawmakers and aides, although no GOP members of the state congressional delegation were present. The shooter, said to be a Bernie Sanders presidential campaign volunteer from Illinois, was shot by Capitol Police and later died.

Addressing the House Wednesday, Ryan stressed that the chamber's members "are one family."

"We are united in our shock. We are united in our anguish. An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us," the Janesville Republican said to a bipartisan standing ovation.

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He also called on lawmakers to "think about how we're all being tested right now."

"I ask each of you to join me to resolve to come together, to lift each other up and to show the country, to show the world, that we are one house, the people's house, united in our humanity," Ryan said.

U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, a Milwaukee Dem often highly critical of Republicans, echoed that message in a Facebook post,. She wrote the "senseless shooting wasn't just an assault on our Republicans, but an attack on our country and the United States Congress."

"I have no illusion as to how politically divided we are," Moore wrote. "Yet every day in Congress, Democrats and Republicans work together. We govern together. When one of us is attacked, we grieve together. And I have full confidence that together, we will be able to heal, support one another, and weather this storm."

Other Wisconsin lawmakers took to social media to share their reactions to the shooting that left GOP House Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., and three others injured, not including the shooter.

"My prayers are with my colleagues, their aides, and the brave Capitol Police who were injured during this senseless act of violence," U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, wrote on Twitter. And U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, D-La Crosse, said he was praying for his colleagues and their aides, and he thanked the "first responders for their brave response."

U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Green Bay, said he was praying for Scalise and anyone else affected by the shooting.

"Thank God for @CapitolPolice who do a dangerous & often thankless job every day, but today displayed incredible heroism & likely saved lives," he tweeted.

Gallagher, along with the other Republican lawmakers from Wisconsin, are not on the GOP baseball team and were not at the practice this morning.

U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman, meanwhile, said he's praying for Scalise, "Capitol Police and the others injured as this horrific news comes in." And U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner said on Twitter his "heart & prayers are w @SteveScalise, those who were injured & their families."

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, said in a tweet he was praying for Scalise and the other victims. He also mentioned the shooting while he spoke in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee this morning, saying people witnessed the worldwide problem "of extremism and violence" during the shooting. He also praised the Capitol Police's response.

"The appreciation we owe to the men and women in public safety, that everyday that they step out of the door they put their lives on the line, that was demonstrated again this morning," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan called for action to prevent gun violence.

Saying incidents such as Wednesday's shooting "have become far too commonplace," the Madison-area Dem noted "how prevalent gun violence is in our communities."

"As Congress holds another moment of silence today, I hope we will have a moment of action after it," he said.

In fact, after the DC shooting, officials reported a shooting at a UPS facility in the San Francisco area.