

Eliminating the marriage penalty will also help lessen the biggest concern facing American families today, and that is financial security. I want to give the working families of Nevada the opportunity to save more of their hard-earned money for their retirement, their children's education, and their families' future. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the hard-working American family and eliminate the unfair marriage penalty. It is time to give our families a break.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

**SCHOOL SAFETY HOTLINE ACT OF
2000**

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5123) to require the Secretary of Education to provide notification to States and State educational agencies regarding the availability of certain administrative funds to establish school safety hotlines.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5123

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) an estimated 255,000 violent incidents occurred in 1999 on school property, at an official school function, or while traveling to and from school;

(2) for the complete school year July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998, there were 58 school-associated violent deaths that resulted from 46 incidents; 46 of these violent deaths were homicides, 11 were suicides, and 1 teenager was killed by a law enforcement officer in the course of duty;

(3) although fewer school-associated violent deaths have occurred in recent years, the total number of multiple victim homicide events has increased;

(4) in 1997, 5 percent of all 12th graders reported that they had been purposefully injured, while they were at school, with a weapon such as a knife, gun, or club during the prior 12 months, and 14 percent reported that they had been injured on purpose without a weapon;

(5) on average, each year from 1993 to 1997, there were 131,400 violent crimes against teachers at schools, as reported by teachers from both public and private schools, which translates into a rate of 31 violent crimes for every 1,000 teachers;

(6) tools should be created for, and provided to, students, teachers, parents, and administrators across the country so that they have the ability to provide the information necessary to law enforcement authorities to take action before other tragedies occur; and

(7) school safety hotlines allow students, parents, and school personnel the opportunity to report threats of school violence to law enforcement authorities, thus reducing incidents of youth violence.

SEC. 2. NOTIFICATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall provide written notification to the States and State educational agencies of the ability of States or State educational agencies, as appropriate, to use State administrative funds provided under title IV and title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to implement programs related to the establishment and operation of a toll-free telephone hotline that students, parents, and school personnel use to report suspicious, violent, or threatening behavior related to schools or school functions to law enforcement authorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5123.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5123, the School Safety Hotline Act of 2000, which would require the Secretary of Education to notify State education agencies so that they can use funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to establish school safety hotlines.

One of the effects of the recent rash of violence in our Nation's schools is that many of our students no longer feel safe. Recent studies and polls have confirmed this, showing that the number of students who fear violence in their school is at a record level. We cannot expect the educational process to continue unencumbered when teachers and students are as concerned with their safety as they are with teaching and learning.

School safety hotlines allow students, teachers, parents, and school personnel the opportunity to report threats or acts of violence to authorities. They give everyone back some of the security that they deserve, allowing them to concentrate on teaching and learning, the very reasons for which they are in school.

□ 1415

According to the report "The School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective" released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last week, one of the most important aspects of identifying potential violent adolescents is detecting that point at which they begin to talk about the event they are planning,

when a student intentionally or unintentionally reveals clues to feelings, thoughts, fantasies, attitudes, or intentions that may signal an impending violent act.

Not too long ago we had the opportunity to hear from members of the Secret Service who came into our office and made us aware of the fact that they had been working on a profile similar to this, or a document similar to this, and looking at the number of people who have been involved with either threats against personnel or threats against elected officials or people who have carried out those threats, and then looking at what they found were similar characteristics among the people who had been involved with school shootings and school violence.

One of the things they told us, there were several common elements, but the one that struck my attention at the time was the fact that all of these people tell somebody; that none of them have acted alone, in a vacuum, without ever letting anyone know of their intentions.

If that is the case, in fact that happens and these people are inclined toward that and do in fact tell others, then something like the school safety hotline, the need for it is quite evident.

In the aftermath of the tragedies around the country, I worked in cooperation with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the Colorado Department of Education, U.S. West, now Qwest, AT&T, and local sheriffs departments throughout the State to establish the Colorado school safety hotline. We were able to pool the resources of State agencies and private companies to provide this needed resource for the State which provides parents, students, and teachers with a valuable tool in our efforts to make schools safe.

We were able to come together as elected leaders, administrators, neighbors, friends, and families to search for ways to restore that sense of safety and security to our schools. Now if someone learns of a potential threat to a fellow student, a teacher, or a school facility, they have an opportunity to provide this information to law enforcement and school authorities who will follow up on their tip, and they can do so anonymously.

All reports to the hotline are kept strictly confidential. Here is how it works, and here is how it has worked in Colorado. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation answers the school safety hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is enormously important. We have talked to other people and other school districts that have implemented these, but they are not really always available and accessible to a live person on the other end. Sometimes they go into a recording. That leaves a great deal of liability for the agency involved.

This hotline, the one we have in Colorado, operates, as I say, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It goes to a live person. Then the sheriff's department

in the county where the school is located is identified and is provided with the information, if that is necessary.

The local sheriff's department then works with local law enforcement agencies to take appropriate action and follow up on tips phoned into the hotline.

Of course, one of the most important aspects of the hotline is getting the word out to everyone in our schools and communities. To this end, the Colorado Department of Education provides each school with posters and makes sure all students and parents are aware of the hotline. AT&T-Qwest provides the public service announcements to highlight the school safety hotline to students, and they do so through the cooperation of TCI cable.

On the hardware side, Qwest has provided the telephone service for the hotline, including the telephones, the phone service, and installation, and provides the maintenance. As of September 5, the Colorado school safety hotline has taken over 600 calls, including 80 that were in the nature of a threat.

Establishing hotlines will hopefully help prevent future tragedy, and are just one of the many actions we can take to help make our schools safer. This will not be a cure, but it is another tool for all of us to use. We all know that the roots of school violence lie much deeper, but we should do everything at our disposal to prevent individual acts from happening.

The Colorado school safety hotline has been a success, and we need to make sure that every school district in America knows they already have some of the resources they need to start their own hotline.

H.R. 5123, the School Safety Hotline Act of 2000, was devised to help States throughout the nation do just that. While I wholeheartedly advocate the public-private partnerships in developing the hotline, which has been extremely successful in my district, with the passage of this legislation, funding will not be an issue whether to take steps to help protect our schools and communities.

It is my hope that tools like the school safety hotline will help restore a sense of security to students, teachers, and their families who undertake this learning mission each day. Once again, I thank the Speaker and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) for moving this bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5123.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today the House considers legislation that will direct the Secretary of Education to notify the States that Federal money is available to set up school safety hotlines so teachers, students, and parents will be able to report threats of school violence to law enforcement.

Many States already know these funds are available for school hotlines. Some House Members may question whether or not this legislation is really necessary.

As a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce with my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado, I am committed to reducing classroom sizes, ensuring after-school programs, and increasing student achievement and test scores. We can accomplish none of these things unless we have safe schools first.

Had the 106th Congress really addressed school violence, then this legislation would be an appropriate amendment in major gun safety legislation. I regret that Congress has accomplished next to nothing to enact commonsense gun safety legislation.

Have we closed the gun show loophole that permits criminals to get guns easily? No. Have we required gun manufacturers to install safety locks on all new guns? No. Have we banned high-capacity ammunition clips on assault weapons? No. Do we even allow the Department of Education to collect specific information on gun violence in our schools? No.

In my home State of New York, I have worked closely with Governor George Pataki and our State lawmakers so we were able to enact strong, commonsense gun safety legislation this summer. I am proud our State now has a law that closes the gun show loophole and requires child safety locks on guns.

We need national commonsense gun legislation. This way we know all our schools will certainly be as safe as they can be.

The House leadership and the gun lobby have maintained their ironclad alliance to block the consideration of this commonsense gun legislation. I urge the American people to send a message to the House leadership to reject the gun lobby and enact real gun safety legislation before we adjourn for the year.

Mr. Speaker, the new school year has just begun. We need to give parents greater assurance that their children will be safe while they are attending school. I will support H.R. 5123, but the truth is, the Congress must do more. We can close the gun show loophole. We can require child safety locks. We can ban high-capacity ammunition clips. We can collect information on gun violence in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me on this important issue, and I commend her for her continued fight on this most critical problem.

We all remember with horror the tragedy that occurred in April of 1999 at Littleton, Colorado. It left a country speechless, parents childless, and Congress clueless. We will likely never know the motivations behind these two young killers.

One fact remains glaringly clear, Mr. Speaker: They were able to obtain the firearms they needed without any questions asked. A friend of the two purchased the guns from a gun show the previous autumn. Days after the killing she said, "I wish it had been more difficult. I wouldn't have helped them buy the guns if I had faced a background check."

In the days, months, and now a year following Columbine, I have joined my colleagues in the Congress from both sides of the aisle to put an end to the gun show loophole. While successful to that end, the majority leadership still refuses to address other proposed legislation dealing with gun safety issues, so I am pleased and I am honored to stand with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and his legislation. It is on the suspension calendar today, and I salute the gentleman from Colorado. It is timely, in fact, because millions of children and teenagers are returning to classrooms across the Nation to go back to school this month.

As stated in H.R. 5123, an estimated 225,000 violent incidents occurred in 1999 on school property, at an official school function, or while traveling to and from school. That is not acceptable and it should not be to anybody, regardless of which side of the aisle they sit on. Students and teachers ought not to leave their houses in the morning worried about whether or not they will make it home that evening.

H.R. 5123 adds one more safety measure to ensuring that school violence is stopped. To those who say there are enough laws on the books already, I say, they are misinformed. It requires the Secretary of Education to notify States that administrative funds may be used to establish the tollfree hotline in schools, as the good gentleman from Colorado pointed out. Parents, students, and school personnel wanting to report suspicious or violent acts could use this hotline.

I applaud the author of this commonsense legislation. It does not take one gun away from one person in the United States of America. It is common sense, and I applaud the gentleman for that. This is a step in the right direction.

I am encouraged that we are debating this today, because it gives me hope. Remember the song, Core Ingrata. Give me the slightest sign of hope. That is what they are doing today. This measure requires, as a measure that I had introduced not too long ago concerning smart guns, that every handgun manufactured and sold in America must incorporate technology to allow operation only by its owner. What in God's name is so demonic about that?

I urge the majority leadership to consider bringing up reasonable gun legislation: a 3-day waiting period for gun show purchases, the elimination of high-capacity ammunition clips, and requiring child safety locks on every handgun. We have Federal law on aspirins, child seats, cigarette lighters. We are afraid to do it with weapons.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I recognized when I brought this measure forward that would provide an opportunity for our friends on the other side to discuss a variety of other issues not really attendant to this particular problem, not attendant to this particular bill.

We can spend all of our time, and I know that, in debate on the myriad of issues that have been hashed and rehashed on this floor, debated, discussed, or raked over, but in fact we are talking about something here that is a very practical step that can be taken tomorrow.

It does not need the overwhelming support of the Congress from a financial standpoint, it just simply needs to be passed into law and allowed to be implemented by the Secretary of Education, and we will have done something significant. It is meaningful. These are not just whimsical attempts to try to deal with this problem. Over 600 calls have come in in 1 year, a little over 1 year. Eighty of those calls were of a threatening nature.

□ 1430

We do not know, because the system does not require a feedback, as to what kind of action was finally taken after the CBA sends the information to the local agency. But, anecdotally, we have heard that there have been three to four arrests that have been made as a result of the hotline; and, therefore, we can only speculate as to the possibility as to the number of people whose lives have either been saved or at least kept out of harm's way as a result of this. So we can do this. We should think positively about the steps we can take in this regard.

I urge us to focus our attention on this issue and not on the many other things that I know are deep and deeply felt. I totally understand my colleagues who do get emotional about this issue. It is definitely an emotional issue. Perhaps the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL) and I share more than just an inclination of that because, being both Italians here, one can understand how we can both get emotional about this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), my colleague on the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I would, first of all, like to thank the gentleman from New York for the time that she has given me to speak on such an important topic and commend her for her strong leadership on the committee that we serve on together.

I would like to extend a bipartisan hand to my colleague on the other side of the aisle who also serves on the

Committee on Education and the Workforce for his common sense, his bipartisanship, and his responsiveness to a need in America, which is important to establish a safety hotline for our parents and our schools.

But just as we need this safety hotline because of violence programs in our schools, we also need more. We need a lifeline to many of our students in our schools across this great country who do not have a chance to get a good education.

Just as we have brought this bipartisan and responsive and common sense legislation to the floor tonight, it is a very small step, a drop in the bucket towards solving some of the education problems in America, we need to do more.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) and I have a bill to try innovative and bold and new ways to respond to the need in this country to bring more teachers into the teaching profession. Where is that bill today? This would bring people into the teaching profession at 40 or 50 years old in technology and math and science areas when too many of our teachers are overwhelmed with problems in the schools; and they are teaching, with a physical education degree, physics. They are not certified in the area. So we need to do more.

We need to do more in Head Start, making our Head Start programs more responsive to the needs of learning children earlier and at earlier ages. We need more resources for those children. Where is that bill today?

We need to do more to help some of our working families in the middle class and low income to afford the cost of college or community school. But we do not have that bill today.

We do not have the Elementary and Secondary Education Act on the floor today, although that will probably expire soon. We need more charter schools and public choice in America today. Where is that bill today?

Now, I am all for establishing a hotline to help our parents and our children and help establish safer schools, but what about the lifeline? In America today, across the country, from Colorado to Indiana to New York, education is the most important and pressing concern on the minds of our parents. Yet, oftentimes we cannot muster the needed, the required bipartisanship and common sense and responsiveness to bring some of these other bills to the floor.

I hope we do it before this session ends. I hope we can work on charter schools and public choice. I hope we can work on new ideas to bring new teachers into the profession. I hope we can work on better quality ideas for our parents to be involved in our schools and for local control. I hope that we can work on the ideas of, sometimes in our cities, schools that are literally falling down on the heads of our children.

Let us work together in this Congress on these ideas and not just on the idea,

although it is a good one, of outlines for our parents, for safe schools.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to get into all of the things that have not been on the floor that are not on the floor, it is, I guess, important for us to talk about what has happened so far.

April 29, 1999, the Educational Flexibility Act, H.R. 800, was signed into law; May 4, 1999, IDEA Full Funding resolution passed the House; July 10, the Teacher Empowerment Act. October 12, Dollars to the Classroom resolution passed the House; October 21, Student's Results Act. October 21, the Academic Achievement Act (Straight A's) passed the House. February 29, Literacy Involves Families Together Act passed the committee. April 13, the committee completed consideration of Education Options Act. May 3, IDEA Full Funding bill passed the House.

There have been actions taken. Again, speaking about these things in a vacuum makes it appear as though this is the only thing that we are doing. It is certainly not the case with education.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER).

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York once again for her kindness and generosity. I just respond to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) by saying this: The first bill that he mentioned, the Education Flexibility Act, was a bill that I authored with the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), a Republican; and we worked across the aisle to pass that bill. It was signed into law by the President. It was one of the few that the gentleman from Colorado mentioned that has been signed into law.

It is one thing to be able to say we passed this in this body, it is another thing to be able to say we mustered the bipartisanship in the Senate or we were able to persuade or convince the President to be with us on the issue; and generally he is with us on many of these education issues.

The gentleman from Colorado mentioned a host of resolutions that do not have the force of law. The gentleman mentioned the TEA act, the Teacher Empowerment Act, that tries to provide more opportunities for our teachers to get into the teaching profession in new ways. I supported that piece of legislation. That is not law. ESCA, no where to be found today. Elementary and Secondary Education Act that is so vital where, we worked very well together for about a third of that act in a bipartisan way, and then bipartisanship somehow mysteriously fell apart.

So we have a long way to go. My point to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is, one, to congratulate him for a bipartisan piece of legislation today, and, secondly, and I think he would admit, we need to do more.

The challenges in America today were succinctly put forward by Thomas

Jefferson a long time ago when he said "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." The dreams for the future for our children are a great education and not leaving children behind. Too many of these children are being left behind.

We need local control of our schools. We need more public school choice and more charter schools. We need more new and innovative ways to bring teachers into the profession and give them the resources to have great schools.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) for his comments, his very, I think, observant comments. I believe that much of what he brings to our attention is worthy of our attention. There is so much that we can do here and so much for which we have responsibility.

There is this other body, the other body we all know, we all have concerns and complaints about how it operates, or sometimes it apparently does not, but the fact is that is where most of this legislation resides. We can take, I think, pride in what we have done here. There is only so much we can do until the other body makes their decisions and moves along.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) for yielding me this time. I especially want to thank her for her consistent and dedicated leadership on gun safety; leadership that has not faltered, as I am sad to say this Congress has.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), who knows firsthand what gun violence can mean to a State and to a jurisdiction, for the bipartisan leadership he has given on the bill that is before us today.

It is a useful bill. It is useful if nothing more as an advertisement for districts to know that this money exists. It is useful as a reminder to the Department of Education, if the Secretary has not already done it, to send out notices that these funds are available. It is useful to help prevent further gun violence.

But if I may say so, if we are truly serious about preventing gun violence, we will look at more than threats for gun violence. There would be fewer threats if there were fewer guns.

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) mentioned the kind of emotion that he knew his bill would call forth on the floor. Well, particularly for those of us from high gun violence jurisdictions, what kind of Members would we be this late in the session if we had no passion for this issue?

I can tell my colleagues this, the representatives of the Million Moms came

to see me recently. Last week they went to the press in desperation. The mothers who appeared with pictures of their dead children. Yes, we are angry, Mr. Speaker. They were angry, many of them, to the point of tears. School was opening throughout the region and throughout the country. They could not believe that the 106th Congress had made no progress on gun safety since the Columbine youth massacre more than a year ago. They were incredulous, and they mean for us to be incredulous.

They were dismayed that the leadership could be sitting on gun safety legislation as their children were about to go back to school. They could not believe that we would consider going home without taking this bill out of conference and passing it now. That is what they wanted me to come to the floor to say this afternoon. I would be here in a 5-minute speech if not for this legislation.

My colleagues are going to hear, not only from me and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), they are going to hear from many of us until this bill is passed and especially during this session.

The moms cannot believe that, after families pulled off the largest gun safety demonstration in American history, this House, this Senate has not yet heard them. I can tell my colleagues this, they have not gone away. They have not only not gone away, look in the districts of my colleagues. They are in their district now organizing.

They are making gun safety a potent election issue, which it did not have to be, because there is bipartisan support for the minimum gun safety legislation that is locked up in a self-imposed moratorium in conference committee as I speak.

I can tell my colleagues one thing. It is dangerous to treat moms like children with short attention spans. They are in for the long haul. They are not going to forget. They did not forget when they came, and they are not going to forget in November.

As Congress came back, the families felt no safer, even though it was reported during that very week that crime was down 10 percent in the country over last year. We hear one hand clapping. I do not hear the moms clapping. We are down 34 percent since 1993. Do my colleagues know why they do not hear their clapping is because they do not feel any safer.

Now, I do not know if passing the gun legislation locked up by the majority will make them be any safer, I know they will feel safer. It is the shadow of Columbine, I will say to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), that is hanging over the heads of parents and children in every State of the Union, in the District of Columbia, and the insular areas.

Imagine waking up just before Congress reconvenes and reading in the Washington Post that the FBI was preparing a guidebook on how to detect

children who might go on a shooting spree.

□ 1445

I want to know how to detect the guns and get the guns out of the hands of children who might be inclined to go on a shooting spree.

Congress better watch out, we are way behind the moms. We are still at the level of high-capacity ammunition, safety locks on guns, and the gun show loophole. They have sailed ahead to licensing and registration one gun a month. But if we were to do just what is before us now, I think they would feel that they and we had accomplished much.

I know this much: they have got long memories and their memories are not sustained by the statistics that show about 80,000 children killed in gun violence since 1979. They are not sustained by the statistics from the District of Columbia that show that there were 700 children killed by gun violence in my district.

Do my colleagues know why I am emotional? Seven hundred children in this city of half a million.

I know some of my colleagues will say, Yeah, you have got legislation that bans guns, Eleanor, so what good is it? I will tell them what good it is. Not one of those guns came from the District of Columbia. Every one of them was brought in from jurisdictions that allow guns to be sold with loopholes and without safety locks.

This is one country. This is all of our country. Guns travel across borders the same way that children do. And until there is a national gun law, there is no gun law and there is no safety for any child anywhere in America.

We do not measure them by statistics. We measure them by the way I do, by Harris "Pappy" Bates, who went on Easter Monday to the National Zoo, set up by this body, and got shot in the head. I am pleased to report that somehow he has survived.

We measure it by Andre Watts and Natasha Marsh of Wilson High School, who were buried in their graduation gowns.

Many of us stand with Mothers Across America. I say to my colleagues, I come to my colleagues with their message: we go home without gun safety legislation at our peril.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it was inevitable, I am sure, regardless of how many attempts to try and focus on this particular piece of legislation, a positive step that we are taking, it was inevitable that we would begin to once again hear the kind of rhetoric just propounded on the floor of the House. It is inevitable but disconcerting.

Certainly those of us from my State, certainly I need no one to remind me what happened, where it happened, and how it happened. And I will tell my colleagues this also: we can talk forever

about gun violence, and there are absolutely legitimate issues for us to debate on this floor and through legislative bodies throughout the United States, but to tie every single issue every single time they have an opportunity to tie Columbine to it, to use that name over and over again, they do so and they do so, I believe, in a way that is not respectful of the event and of the feelings and emotions of the people in my community because it is exploiting that horrific event.

The gun show, let us talk about exactly what did happen. And I do hope that, in fact, the people of this Nation do have long memories. I will be more than willing to help them remember exactly what happened on this floor when we debated the part of the bill dealing with gun safety that we call the juvenile justice bill and we, in fact, included a provision to close the gun show loophole; and we included a ban on importation of high-capacity clips, and we included a juvenile Brady bill saying that if any juvenile gets convicted of a violent crime that they can never own a gun, and we included a mandatory sale of gun locks; and we included making it illegal for a juvenile to possess an assault weapon.

Those were there. The bill went down, and it went down with 191 Democrat noes and about 81 or 82 Republican noes, and it went down because there was a desire to have rhetoric for the rest of this session about guns as opposed to a solution.

This that I propose today is part of a solution. It is not the cure. It is not the silver lining that we can look for in this ominous picture. But it does give us hope, and it is designed to give children and parents hope.

There is nothing more discouraging in the last several months than having to recognize the fact that there were kids all over this country actually afraid to go to school. Even if nothing had happened in their particular school, nothing of a violent nature, they were still afraid because of everything they had seen on the television, everything they had heard from the media about the potential for violence.

I kept thinking to myself, what can I do, what is one thing I can do about this; and it was this hotline, the school safety hotline. It is not everything we should do. I agree with my colleagues, there is more. But, please, let us at least be positive enough to move in the direction that we know we all want to move here; and that is to provide a safe learning environment for every single child in America and to do so without the sort of incredibly divisive and, I think, inappropriate rhetoric, especially in reference to Columbine.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5123.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES ACT OF 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4840) to reauthorize the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4840

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT ACT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 811 of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (16 U.S.C. 5108) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 811. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this title, there are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

"(b) COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM.—Amounts authorized under subsection (a) may be used by the Secretary to support the Commission's cooperative statistics program.

"(c) REPORTS.—

"(1) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall require, as a condition of providing financial assistance under this title, that the Commission and each State receiving such assistance submit to the Secretary an annual report that provides a detailed accounting of the use of the assistance.

"(2) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit biennial reports to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the use of Federal assistance provided to the Commission and the States under this title. Each biennial report shall evaluate the success of such assistance in implementing this title."

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Such Act is amended—

(A) in section 802(3) (16 U.S.C. 5101(3)) by striking "such resources in" and inserting "such resources is"; and

(B) by striking section 812 and the second section 811.

(2) AMENDMENTS TO REPEAL NOT AFFECTED.—The amendments made by paragraph (1)(B) shall not affect any amendment or repeal made by the sections struck by that paragraph.

(3) SHORT TITLE REFERENCES.—Such Act is further amended by striking "Magnuson Fishery" each place it appears and inserting "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4840.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4840 reauthorizes the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Management Act through fiscal year 2005. This bill will extend the successful Federal-State fishery management partnership with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The commission, Mr. Speaker, is made up of representatives from each of the Atlantic coastal States. Under the Act, the Federal Government can implement a moratorium on fishing in State waters if States do not comply with the plans written by the commission.

The commission's greatest success is notable in the recovery of the Atlantic striped bass, Mr. Speaker. The striped bass suffered a population crash in the late 1970s for a number of reasons, including over-fishing. Today, for fishermen in the mid-Atlantic region, including those in Ocean County, New Jersey, which is part of the district I am privileged to represent and all along Long Beach Island, this comeback has resulted in the greatest fishing on the East Coast.

Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, just a short time ago, last week, I had a nice group of folks join me on a 10-mile beach walk; and as we walked up the beach on Long Beach Island, there were surf fishermen after surf fishermen in quest of the Atlantic striped bass and, I might add, with some success.

This legislation simply authorizes \$10 million a year to carry out the Atlantic coastal fisheries program to enable this striped bass program and others to move forward.

The bill also allows appropriated funds to be used to carry out a fisheries statistics program which supports Atlantic coastal States fishery management plans.

I believe this legislation is non-controversial, and I would urge everyone to vote aye.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to compliment my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, for his authorship of this legislation. I also want to thank the full committee chairman and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) for their support of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Atlantic coastal fishery resources that migrate or are widely