

What happens or what fails to happen in the critical, precious, and immediate moments after the single split second of an emergency can be the difference between healing and heart-break, between calamity and recovery, between life and death.

Consider the story of Elaine Sullivan. A very active 71-year-old woman, Elaine fell at home while getting into her bathtub. When paramedics arrived, they realized that injuries to her mouth and head had made her unable to communicate, or as the hospital later discovered, to give informed consent for her own care.

Although stable for the first few days, she began to slip into critical condition. Despite having her daughter's contact information clearly indicated on her chart, the hospital failed to notify her family for 6 days. Tragically, just hours later, Elaine Sullivan died alone in the hospital.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, Elaine Sullivan's daughter, Jan, and granddaughter, Laura, turned their personal pain to public action. Jan and Laura Greenwald went to work to make sure that what happened to their loved one would not happen to others.

From their research, the Greenwalds learned about other incidents like their own, in which families of hospitalized patients were not notified at all or notified after lengthy delay. Although uncommon, these stories were alarming; but, alas, they were avoidable.

Let me be clear. Most hospitals notify the next of kin of unconscious emergency room arrivals relatively quickly. However, emergency rooms are extremely high pressure, intense, and sometimes chaotic environments. According to statistics compiled by the American College of Emergency Physicians, more than 88 percent of emergency room doctors surveyed reported moderate to severe overcrowding in their department. In the hustle and bustle of the ER, despite the professionalism and dedication of staff, there are real risks that a simple phone call may not be able to be made in a timely fashion.

In the case of Elaine Sullivan, the phone call was not made. In her memory and honor, I have introduced this bill so that in the future phone calls to loved ones will always be made. The bill, the Elaine Sullivan Act, is sensible. It requires hospitals that receive Medicare funding to make reasonable efforts to contact a family member, specified health care agent, or surrogate decision-maker of incapacitated patients within 24 hours of arrival at the emergency department.

The bill is realistic. Modeled after State laws in Illinois and California, the bill recognizes that such notifications would be difficult and even impractical in certain instances and under certain circumstances. Therefore, the 24-hour notification requirement does not apply when hospitals implement a disaster or mass casualty program or during a declared state of

emergency or other local mass casualty situation.

The bill is constructive. The legislation makes Federal grants available for the next 5 years to qualified not-for-profit organizations to establish and operate a national next of kin registry. As a high-speed, electronic free search service, the voluntary registry would help hospitals and government agencies to locate family members of the injured, missing, and the deceased.

How would the registry work? Consider for a moment just one distressing, but relevant, scenario. Your loved one, say your spouse, is on a business trip. She is out of state and on her own. On the way, she is involved in a serious head-on collision. Unconscious and unable to communicate, she is rushed to the nearest hospital. Unbeknownst to you, your wife lay comatose, fighting for her life, miles from home.

Doctors and nurses work feverishly to provide emergency medical care to a patient who is only a name on the license; but to you, she is the love of your life. If the two of you had signed up for the next of kin registry, the hospital staff would be able to quickly notify you about your wife's critical condition. You could rush to be by her side, share critical medical history and information that could help save her life; hence, the bill is necessary.

It is not intended to frustrate the mission of hospitals, but rather to facilitate it. It is about notifying the right people at the right time in order to share the right information during an emergency. Using this crucial medical information while caring for a critically ill patient reduces the hospital's own liability. So, such notification is vital.

Not only is it important to have a family member present to comfort the patient, but also to make informed decisions that the patient can't make for him or herself and to provide the medical history that could very well be the difference between life and death.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 2560—the Elaine Sullivan Act. It is a small but sensible measure designed to save lives and ease suffering. Mr. Speaker, we don't know when tragedy will strike. But, if it does, we should know that we would not be alone. This bill provides the assurance that our loved ones will be by our side.

SMART SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in the first Presidential debate of the 2004 Presidential election, moderator Jim Lehrer asked the candidates what they believe is the single most serious threat to the national security of the United States. Without delay, Senator KERRY responded "nuclear proliferation." When President Bush had the opportunity to respond, he agreed that

nuclear nonproliferation is the biggest threat we face as a Nation.

If the President agrees that nuclear nonproliferation is such a grave and immediate threat, why does he and why does his administration continue to seek the creation of new nuclear weapons? Why does the President continue to seek funds to study the creation of the robust nuclear Earth penetrator, otherwise known as the "bunker buster" bomb? Why does this year's defense authorization bill continue this ridiculous trend by recommending a Department of Defense study about the possibility of creating the bunker buster?

Mr. Speaker, the stated purpose of the bunker buster is to destroy caves and difficult-to-reach terrorist hideouts, but the bunker buster is completely unnecessary. The United States military already is capable of bombing these remote locations, and they do not need to use nuclear weapons.

The bunker buster is also extremely dangerous. A detonation of this deadly weapon would create an enormous, uncontrollable explosion, spreading toxic, radioactive materials over a large area; and an explosion could cause the death of thousands of innocent civilians and devastate large tracts of lands.

How many times must we consider the merits or lack thereof of the bunker buster bomb? How many times must sensible nonproliferation priorities compete with a dangerous nuclear arms race?

To address the true security threats we face, I have introduced the SMART Security resolution, H. Con. Res. 158, with the support of 49 of my House colleagues. SMART is a Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. It encourages renewed nonproliferation efforts over continued nuclear buildup.

SMART urges sufficient funding and support for nonproliferation efforts in countries that possess nuclear weapons and nuclear materials. One of the best ways to accomplish this goal is through CTR, the Cooperative Threat Reduction program. The Cooperative Threat Reduction program successfully works with Russia to dismantle and safeguard excess nuclear weapons and materials in the states of the former Soviet Union.

Under this program, more than 20,000 Russian scientists, formerly tasked with creating nuclear weapons, are now working to dismantle them. That is why SMART Security includes robust support for the current CTR model, including expanding the program to other nations such as Libya and Pakistan, nations that possess excess nuclear weapons and excess nuclear materials.

To promote these efforts, earlier today I introduced an amendment to the Defense authorization bill to expand CTR. My amendment would bring this important program to Libya and Pakistan, two countries that are known to possess nuclear materials.

We need to utilize our diplomatic relationships to encourage these two countries to give up their dangerous nuclear materials, and the best way to do so is through the Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

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CTR is but one of the broad array of national security programs in SMART security and an effective one at that. But any attempt to rid the world of nuclear weapons must include non-proliferation efforts at home, in the United States. We must set an example for the rest of the world by fulfilling our international pledge to end our nuclear program and dismantle our existing weapons.

Mr. Speaker, continued efforts to study the feasibility of the bunker buster bomb are the very antithesis of these international commitments. When the United States engages in the proliferation of nuclear weapons, we lower the threshold and actually encourage other countries to proliferate with the possibility of actually using nuclear weapons. Instead, let us get smart.

Let us be smart about this issue and work both here at home and abroad to end the proliferation of any and all nuclear bombs. We owe this to our children and we owe this to their children.

CAFTA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year President Bush signed the Central American Free Trade Agreement, a one-sided plan to benefit multinational corporations at the expense of United States and Central American farmers, small businesses and workers. Every trade agreement negotiated by this administration has been ratified by Congress within 65 days, within about 2 months of the President's signing it. But CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, has languished in Congress for 1 year without a vote because this wrong-headed trade agreement offends both Republicans and Democrats.

Just look at what has happened with our trade policy in the last dozen years. In 1992, the year I was first elected to Congress, we had in this country a trade deficit of \$38 billion. That means that we imported \$38 billion of goods more than we exported. \$38 billion in 1992. Then NAFTA passed, the North American Free Trade Agreement, then permanent normal trade relations with China, then a whole 'nother series of trade agreements.

Last year, our trade deficit was \$618 billion, from \$38 billion to \$618 billion in 12 short years.

Our trade policy clearly is bankrupt, clearly is not working for American workers, clearly is not working for our

families, for our school systems, for our communities, and clearly is not working in the developing world for workers in those countries. It is the same old story.

Now the President is asking us to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement. With each trade agreement that the President asks us to pass, the President and his allies promise stronger manufacturing in the United States, more jobs for Americans, more prosperity for the U.S. economy and for communities in this country and better wages for workers in developing countries. Yet with every single trade agreement, their promises fall by the wayside in favor of big business interests that send U.S. jobs overseas, that lock in low wages in the developing world and that exploit that cheap labor abroad.

Madness, Mr. Speaker, is repeating the same action over and over and over and expecting a different result. Again, look at this trade deficit. Look what has happened after 12 years of failed trade policies. From a \$38 billion trade deficit to \$618 billion. President Bush, Sr., said that for every \$1 billion of trade deficits, that translates into 12,000 jobs. If you have a surplus of \$1 billion, you have 12,000 extra jobs. If you have a deficit of \$1 billion, you lose 12,000 jobs. We have a deficit of \$618 billion. Do the math.

Mr. Speaker, what has happened with this trade deficit shows in this map. These red States are States which have lost, in just a 5-year period, 6-year period, more than 20 percent of their manufacturing. Michigan, 210,000 jobs. Illinois, 224,000 jobs lost. My State, the State of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), 216,000 jobs. The State of the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), 50,000 jobs. The State of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), 353,000 jobs. The State of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), 224,000. Hundreds of thousands of jobs lost with this trade policy, with this kind of export trade policy, import trade policy, where trade deficits continue to grow and grow and grow.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, in the face of this growing bipartisan opposition, the administration, the Republican leadership has tried every trick in the book to pass CAFTA. They cannot argue our trade policy is working when you see this kind of manufacturing job loss.

So what they do, they first try to link CAFTA with helping democracy in the developing world and they say, CAFTA will help us fight the war on terror. Ten years of NAFTA, 10 years of CAFTA's dysfunctional cousin NAFTA, have done nothing to improve border security with Mexico, so that argument does not sell.

Then, 2 weeks ago, the United States Chamber of Commerce flew on a junket the six presidents from the CAFTA countries around our country, hoping they would sell CAFTA to the Amer-

ican people and to the Congress and to the American media. They flew them to Albuquerque and Los Angeles. They flew them to Cincinnati, Ohio, in my State and New York and Miami. Again, they failed.

At the end of this trip, one of the presidents, the Costa Rican president said, Hey, my country is not ratifying CAFTA unless an independent commission would show that it would not hurt working families and the poor in my country of Costa Rica. So that is not working.

Calling out that we have got to do something about the war on terror and that is why we are doing this agreement, that did not work. Bringing the Central American presidents to the United States, that did not work.

So what is next? The Republican leadership is opening the bank. They are making deals. To my friends on that side of the aisle, they are promising bridges, they are promising highways, they are promising some of the sleaziest deals this Congress has ever seen. They are basically buying votes in this Congress in order to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement. We saw it in 2002 with fast track authority when the President opened the bank and bought votes then. We are not going to stand for it this time.

Mr. Speaker, what really makes sense instead is a trade policy that lifts workers up in rich and poor countries alike while it is respecting human rights. The United States with its unrivaled purchasing power and its enormous economic clout is in a unique position to help empower poor workers in developing countries while promoting prosperity at home.

Vote "no" on CAFTA. Renegotiate a better agreement.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of