

I want to, again, thank all of the people involved in this. It is nice to be involved in a piece of legislation that I can be proud of and that went through the process the right way and worked out the right way.

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate that this bill is about greater transparency and accountability among the banking regulators.

The Federal Government should not be able to intimidate financial institutions into dropping entire sectors of the economy's customers based on personal and political motivations. It should be based on risk and evidence of wrongdoing.

Our new AG has stopped this practice, and the FDIC has incorporated many of the principles in this bill already into their standard operating procedures. But the importance of this bill is to codify in law for the regulators the guardrails that are necessary to keep this from happening to protect our citizens from this and many other activities by an overreach of the bureaucracy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2706, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

INVESTOR CLARITY AND BANK PARITY ACT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3093) to amend the Volcker Rule to permit certain investment advisers to share a similar name with a private equity fund, subject to certain restrictions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3093

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 "Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act".

SEC. 2. NAMING RESTRICTIONS.

Section 18 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1831) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(G)(vi), by inserting before the semicolon the following: "except that the hedge fund or private equity fund may share the same name or a variation of the same name as a banking entity that is an investment adviser to the hedge fund or private equity fund, if—

"(I) such investment adviser is not an insured depository institution, a company that controls an insured depository institution, or a company that is treated as a bank holding company for purposes of section 8 of the International Banking Act of 1978; and

"(II) such investment adviser does not share the same name or a variation of the same name as an insured depository institution, any company that controls an insured depository institution, or any company that is treated as a bank holding company for purposes of section 8 of the International Banking Act of 1978; and

"(III) such name does not contain the word "bank"; and

(2) in subsection (h)(5)(C), by inserting before the period the following: "., except as permitted under subsection (d)(1)(G)(vi)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3093, the Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act. I would like to start by thanking my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) for his work on this important bipartisan legislation.

This bill makes a modest amendment to section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Act, also known as the Volcker rule, by correcting an unintended consequence that occurred during implementation.

When the regulators issued the final rule to the Volcker rule, they imposed severe limitations on the ability of bank holding companies and their affiliates, including investment advisers, to sponsor hedge funds and private equity funds, also known as covered funds. As a result, a covered fund cannot use the name of a sponsor.

For example, if XYZ investment adviser is an affiliate of XYZ bank and sponsors a real estate fund, that real estate fund could not be named XYZ real estate fund. Not only is such a restriction at odds with industry practice, it reduces transparency and confuses investors about who is actually managing a covered fund.

H.R. 3093 eliminates this prohibition and simply allows an affiliate of a bank holding company, such as an investment adviser, to share a similar name with a private equity fund. In doing so, this legislation clarifies the original intent of the Volcker rule and, most importantly, helps investors have better insight into who is actually managing a covered fund.

Finally, H.R. 3093 is consistent with recommendations provided by the

Treasury Department in its recent report on banks and credit unions.

I want to again thank my friend from Massachusetts for his work on this bill. The Volcker rule is in need of additional reforms. I appreciate that Mr. CAPUANO has started on the naming issue and that our colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee have included modest Volcker reforms in Chairman CRAPO's regulatory relief legislation.

It is my hope, however, that this is the beginning of the conversation and that we can work again in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to pass additional Volcker reforms, such as the designation of a single regulator to work with other regulators. In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I believe the gentleman from Missouri has stated everything that needs to be said. This is a simple bill that is a technical amendment to the Volcker rule that I strongly support. I know that many others have opposition to that. This is a minor change.

When you do a bill like Dodd-Frank, or any major bill, there are always things you make a mistake on and that you didn't see coming. This is one of them.

It is very simple. This simply allows a company to use names that they have been using forever. That is really all it is. I appreciate the gentleman's willingness and the committee's willingness to hear this simple bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3093.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1730) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1730

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 “Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY CENTERS WITH RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.

Section 247 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting after “threat of force,” the following: “including by threat of force against religious real property.”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) if damage to or destruction of property results from the acts committed in violation of this section, which damage to or destruction of such property is in an amount that exceeds \$5,000, a fine in accordance with this title and imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both; and”;

(3) in subsection (f), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or real property owned or leased by a nonprofit, religiously affiliated organization”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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. 1730, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017 is a bill designed to address recent attacks on religious institutions. It amends the Church Arson Prevention Act to clarify that the act covers religious real property, such as religious community centers. It also increases the penalty for destruction of property offenses on religious property where the conduct results in more than \$5,000 in damages to the property.

This legislation is a direct response to the recent onslaught of bomb threats to various synagogues, mosques, churches, and religious community centers. In 2017, there have been more than 100 reported bomb threats against Jewish community centers, Jewish day schools, and other Jewish organizations and institutions in more than 38 States. Islamic centers and mosques have been burned in the States of Texas, Washington, and Florida. We must send the message that any attempt to instill fear in a religious community will not be tolerated.

From its inception, our country has recognized that freedom of religion is a

fundamental right. It is just as important to protect this right today, if not more so. We must continue to ensure that the American people can continue to practice their faith without obstruction.

I commend Representative DAVID KUSTOFF and Representative DEREK KILMER for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

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

I rise in favor of the legislation. I want to thank the honorable gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for his leadership on this and also salute Representatives KUSTOFF and KILMER for their introduction of this legislation.

It is important legislation, Mr. Speaker, because it extends protections under current Federal law for religious real property. We know there is no religious free exercise for our people if they are too afraid to go to church or to synagogue or to the mosque.

Currently, section 247 of the Federal criminal code prohibits both the damaging of religious property because of the property’s religious character and the intentional obstruction—by force or threats of force—of anyone’s exercise of their religious beliefs.

H.R. 1730 clarifies that not just force but threats of force against religious property are included in this prohibition.

□ 1730

In addition, the bill provides that the damaging or obstructing of such property that results in damages exceeding \$5,000 constitutes a felony punishable by up to 3 years in prison.

Finally, H.R. 1730 clarifies that real property covered by the statute includes property leased by a nonprofit, religiously affiliated organization.

The importance of the bill, of course, is underscored by the recent upsurge, as Mr. GOODLATTE said, in bomb threats, hate crimes, and vandalism committed against churches, synagogues, mosques, and other communities of faith, a wave of hate that is now etched in the public’s mind by the shocking events in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, which began at a local synagogue.

The Hate Crimes Statistics for 2016 released by the FBI indicate that anti-Semitic hate crimes increased 20 percent from the prior year. There has been an alarming surge committed not just against synagogues, but against churches and mosques in 2017.

We know that violent attacks against religious facilities have always accompanied waves of racial terror in our history. In the 1960s, African-American churches in many parts of the country were vandalized, fire bombed, and burned during the struggle for civil rights in the South. In the 1990s, there was a resurgence of arsons committed

against African-American churches. In response, Congress passed the Church Arson Prevention Act in 1996 to make it clear that such behavior was also on the wrong side of the law.

Yet, in 2017, here we are again, facing another rise in hate crimes. We must do more to prevent and fight these threats to our most basic First Amendment freedoms that our people have, including the right of our citizens to practice their religion of choice.

While some may disagree with the religious practice of others, what they may not do is use physical obstruction, force, or threats of force to deny other people the right to worship as they choose. No American should ever have to choose between their faith and their personal security and the safety of their family. Therefore, I strongly support H.R. 1730, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1730, the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017. I introduced this bipartisan bill with the support of my friend, Representative DEREK KILMER of Washington State. Our legislation is essential in safeguarding religious institutions of all kinds from atrocious threats and acts of violence.

Earlier this year, we saw a disturbing rise in bomb threats at Jewish community centers, churches, and other religious institutions across the country. Our communities were in distress as cemeteries were vandalized because of their religious affiliation.

This kind of hate crime is simply unacceptable. After all, religious tolerance is the bedrock on which this great Nation was founded.

According to a report by the Anti-Defamation League, the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States increased dramatically, by 86 percent, in the first 3 months of 2017. We can attribute this year’s increase to 155 vandalism incidents, including three cemetery desecrations and 161 hoax bomb threats against religious community centers. This is a dramatic increase of 127 percent over the same quarter in 2016.

On November 13, 2017, the FBI released its 2016 annual Hate Crime Statistics Act data documents. The study found that more than 100 hate crimes occurred at churches in the United States in 2016 alone.

Unfortunately, hate crimes motivated by religious affiliations accounted for 1,538 total offenses and 1,273 incidents that were reported by law enforcement.

Hate crimes do not just hurt one person. They cause great distress to our families, communities, and society as a

whole. In my own home State of Tennessee, we, sadly, experienced multiple bomb threats at a local Jewish community center. These events shook the entire community.

In addition to the fear inflicted upon these institutions after a threat, there are tangible ramifications for the centers. Many community centers and places of worship are forced to temporarily close their doors as a result of these threats.

Families who rely on the center's services, such as Bible study and early childhood education programs, have been forced to choose between their faith community and their safety. Here, in the United States of America, people should not have to make that choice. Our Nation was founded on the idea of religious freedom, and our commitment to religious freedom must remain unshakable. It is time we say enough is enough. Religious intolerance has no place in this country.

The Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017 would ensure that individuals who make credible threats of violence against religious community centers and places of worship can be prosecuted for committing a hate crime under Federal law.

This bipartisan bill strengthens Federal criminal statutes to prevent threats while preserving our First Amendment rights. It is our moral imperative to protect the right of all Americans to worship freely and without fear, a right that is sewn into our Nation's very fabric. We must strongly condemn any acts of hate against people and all institutions of faith.

I thank Representative KILMER for his hard work on this legislation. I am proud of this bipartisan effort that we have led. I also thank all of the cosponsors of this bill and Chairman GOODLATTE for his leadership on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Jewish Committee and a letter from the Anti-Defamation League.

AJC, GLOBAL JEWISH ADVOCACY,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2017.

Hon. ROBERT GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS,
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE AND RANKING MEMBER CONYERS: I write on behalf of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the global Jewish advocacy organization, in strong support of H.R. 1730, the Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 (which we understand will be renamed the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017).

This critically needed bipartisan legislation, introduced by Rep. David Kustoff with Rep. Derek Kilmer as chief cosponsor, addresses long-standing gaps in Federal hate crimes law. H.R. 1730 amends the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 (18 U.S.C. § 241) (CAPA), which covers attacks on religious property, to bring all religiously affil-

iated institutions—such as community centers—under the scope of its protections. The bill also amends CAPA so as to encompass threats against, as well as acts that result in damage or destruction to, religious real property. Further, H.R. 1730 enhances the penalty for intentional damage to religious real property, which is at the moment only at a misdemeanor level unless there is bodily injury to a person.

In addition to closing these gaps in the law, enactment of H.R. 1730 will send a signal of zero tolerance for hate crimes against people of faith. Hate crimes against religious institutions are on the rise in our country. Since January 2017, at least five mosques have suffered arson attacks, while dozens of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and other religious institutions have been vandalized. These attacks are intolerable. They infringe on the Constitution's protection of the free exercise of religion. Moreover, crimes against religious institutions are intended to create an atmosphere of fear that deters community members from attending worship services and social involvement. They pose a danger to the religious freedom and security of all Americans. In light of the violent anti-Semitic and racist white nationalist rally held in Charlottesville, Virginia, this legislation is more important than ever. We as a nation must take action in response.

For these reasons, AJC strongly urges your support for, and speedy action on, the Combating Anti-Semitism Act.

Respectfully,

RICHARD FOLTIN.

ADL, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE,
New York, NY, April 6, 2017.

Hon. DAVID KUSTOFF.

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUSTOFF: On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League, I am writing to commend you for your leadership in introducing the Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 to help ensure that our government is taking every possible step to protect members of America's religious communities.

Rising anti-Semitic incidents and the recent spate of bomb threats and vandalism against Jewish community institutions and cemeteries have sent a chilling message to the Jewish community.

When Members of Congress stand up to take action, communities targeted by hate motivated incidents and threats feel less vulnerable and isolated. This expression of solidarity and act of reassurance, in turn, shines a spotlight on anti-Semitism and bigotry and helps to promote a more effective response.

We look forward to the swift passage of this bill to reassure faith communities that the government is using all possible tools to deter future threats and to prosecute the perpetrators.

Anti-Semitism and bigotry are affecting countries all over the world, and the U.S. is no exception. But the rigor of America's response, the solidarity we demonstrate for each other across diverse communities, and the leadership of lawmakers like you is a model for the world.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN GREENBLATT,
CEO.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER), the distinguished coauthor of this legislation.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, on February 27 of this year, about 250 men, women, and children gathered at the Stroum Jewish Community Center on Mercer Island in my home State of Washington.

It was a regular evening. The center was alive. People were swimming laps in the pool. They were lifting weights in the gym. Seniors were taking classes like the popular one on Bollywood dancing the center offers on Monday nights. They were assembling peacefully, united by their common faith. Then, they were targeted because of it.

On that night, a man, cowardly hiding behind the anonymity of a telephone, called in a bomb threat on the center. Children and their parents and seniors dropped everything and were evacuated as the police swept it with dogs.

How did we get to the point where places people come to take an aerobics class or drop off a child for Hebrew school become flash points of hate?

The threat to this center is, sadly, not unique. In the first 3 months of this year alone, there were 126 bomb threats called in to 85 Jewish community centers across the country. Imagine the disruption and the fear created by that.

Let's talk about the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, an organization that advocates for peace and provides classes and community activities and funds scholarships to Seattle-area students.

In 2006, a man walked into the federation's offices with two handguns. He fired shots through the office after gaining access by holding a 14-year-old girl at gunpoint as she called her aunt who worked in the building to buzz her in. He killed one woman and wounded a group of others. He then took them hostage, and a 911 operator talked him into surrendering.

Places of worship and faith-based nonprofits must take any threat seriously. Across the country, because of threats of violence, churches, mosques, synagogues, and nonprofit religious community centers associated with them must spend money that could have gone to classes, gym equipment, or food for the poor, instead, on locks, cameras, and security guards.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are here today. Today is a victory for everyday people who come to a Representative with a problem and who are hurt.

Earlier this year, a friend from Washington State, who is here with us today, came to me and said: These threats are hate crimes. We are being targeted because of our faith. But unless someone acts on the threat, it doesn't count as a hate crime under the law.

That is how this bill came to be. This bill is about people coming to their elected Representatives and being heard.

H.R. 1730 will amend the Church Arson Prevention Act to punish the cowards who make threats against our places of worship and religiously affiliated nonprofits. It will classify the act of making credible threats as hate crimes.

What happened in my State wasn't a fluke. The FBI has reported a rise in hate crimes. This affects every faith.

There were an average of 16 hate crimes per day last year. American Jews were targeted with bomb threats. Islamic centers have faced arson. Christians have faced threats in the pews as they pray. This doesn't count the credible threats that I mentioned earlier that create chaos and make people feel as though they are targets for no other reason than the God to whom they worship.

So, Mr. Speaker, today is about coming together as Americans and saying enough is enough. It is about communities crying out, "Never again," and being heard by this body. It is about saying, as leaders, that we must never endorse hate.

Silence in the face of intolerance and violent threats isn't enough. We must condemn hate wherever and however it exists. Mr. Speaker, this is about the people of the Stroum Jewish Community Center and the faithful everywhere who should never have to fear.

Around this country, around this world, too many families have been impacted by religious intolerance and violence. Even my own family's family tree has felt that scourge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Washington an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, this bill acknowledges that, when someone tries to terrorize Americans based on their faith, we need to stand up and do something about it. We must embrace our common humanity and ensure that Americans, wherever they pray, however they come together, are respected.

I thank everyone who has worked on this: my colleague, the chairman, and his committee staff; and Rachel Appleton from my team.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of rights listed in our Bill of Rights. In the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, there are five rights that are mentioned. The first right in the First Amendment is mentioned first, in my opinion, because it is the most important right, and that is the right of religious freedom.

If you notice the wording in that right, it protects the right to freely exercise one's religion. It is more than believe whatever you want to believe religiously. You have the right to practice your religion and freely exercise it. Wise words from the Founders and the writers of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Now we have a situation in our country where that right is being threatened. Even this morning, the attempted terror attack should remind us that we need to be vigilant of the war on terror because people, in the

name of terror, commit crimes against other Americans because they hate them. They hate their religion and what they stand for.

This year, more than 100 bomb threats and other threats of violence have been made against 81 Jewish community centers. A Jewish community center is not the synagogue, but sometimes it is close to it. It is where the Jewish kids and adults go for community.

There have been over 100 bomb threats just this year against 81 Jewish community centers in 33 States. Many of these centers were forced to close because of the threat that was made against them.

□ 1745

These attacks are clearly directed at these facilities due to the religious nature of the buildings and the religious activities that go on there.

Despite this fact, terroristic threats against community religious centers are currently not punished as hate crimes under Federal law.

This bipartisan legislation would amend the Church Arson Prevention Act to ensure that other individuals, who make bomb threats and other credible threats of violence against community religious centers based on the religious nature of that center, can be prosecuted under our law as a hate crime.

The bill also adds new language that would create a penalty of up to 5 years imprisonment if any violation of the statute results in damage or destruction to the property.

We must make it abundantly clear that we will not tolerate acts of violence and hate against any group in America, especially religious groups. It is incumbent upon us, as Congress, to make sure that the First Amendment is protected, and that is our job: to protect religious freedom.

I urge support of this legislation, and I thank the chairman for bringing it to the floor.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), my colleague on the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, protecting the right of every American to practice their religion is a fundamental tenet of our Constitution. That includes defending the security of churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other religiously affiliated institutions where Americans gather together to follow their faith.

This year, we have seen the troubling rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, including bomb threats, vandalism, and cemetery desecrations. One of the most frequent targets have been Jewish community centers, or JCCs, including in my home State of Illinois, including the one in my very own community where my kids attended and played basketball and other sports to connect with their community.

These despicable threats aim to sow fear in families and communities. And they target our most vulnerable children in preschool, Hebrew school, or teens simply coming together to make friends.

Mr. Speaker, no parent in America should have to worry about the safety of their family because of their faith, yet current Federal law does not consider threats against community religious centers as hate crimes. It is unacceptable to limit the consequences faced by the perpetrators of this terror to misdemeanor charges. We need to fix this.

I am proud to have cosponsored this bipartisan legislation, to allow individuals, who make bomb threats and other credible threats of violence against community religious centers, to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for committing a hate crime.

I thank my colleague from Washington for conceiving this important idea and inspiring this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to follow the example of the Judiciary Committee and pass H.R. 1730, the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act, with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my distinguished colleague.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1730, the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017. I thank Congressman KILMER for his vision and leadership on this critical issue.

This legislation would strengthen current Federal law to prohibit threats against religious property, increase the penalty for damaging religious property, and expand protected religious property to include not just houses of worship, but also religiously affiliated nonprofits, like Jewish community centers.

Over the past few years, there has been a frightening rise in incidents of racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia in the U.S. and around the world. All too often, the perpetrators of hate target houses of worship and other religious centers.

From the Sikh temple shooting in Wisconsin in 2012, to Charleston's Emanuel AME Church shooting in 2015, to the mosque attack in London this summer, and the firebombing of a synagogue in Sweden just this past weekend, these violent, cowardly bigots go after what is most sacred to the communities they so odiously abhor.

While the hateful incidents that result in loss of life are undoubtedly the most tragic, any threat or attack against religious property can shake communities to their core.

The Jewish community of south Florida, sadly, knows this firsthand.

Last year, a man planned to bomb a synagogue in Aventura in my congressional district during Passover. He was caught, thankfully, but incidents like this proliferating around the country are instilling fear, causing unease, and requiring additional security measures to be deployed. Sadly, in south Florida, this was not an isolated incident.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that, although not specifically an attack against a Jewish institution, I remember my children, then in preschool, attended preschool at our local JCC and, after the 9/11 attack, my husband racing to their school to take them out of school that day because of the panic that was instilled that automatically occurs in every Jewish family's life with children in a Jewish institution when there is a terrorist attack. We are constantly on edge as to whether or not our community is next.

It is deeply disturbing that the people in my community who attend synagogues and visit our Jewish community centers do so knowing these domestic terrorists intentionally want us to feel uneasy about it. Their mission is to instill fear in the hearts of Jews, Muslims, and other religious minorities so that we will not feel at home in America.

And they are not relenting. The most recent annual report on hate crimes by the FBI showed that there was nearly a 5 percent increase in incidents last year. It is the first time in 10 years that America has experienced consecutive annual increases in reported hate crimes.

More than half of the religiously based hate crimes were anti-Jewish, and a quarter of them were anti-Muslim. We cannot let bigoted threats and vandalism become the new normal.

We must pass this legislation to make it 100 percent clear that, in the view of Congress, when it comes to religious bigotry, there are not good people on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentleman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. We must pass this legislation to make anti-Semitic and Islamophobic cowards think twice before they spread fear, while hiding behind a computer or a phone.

We must pass this legislation to ensure that America is always a refuge from religious persecution. I deeply wish this legislation were not needed, Mr. Speaker, but, sadly, it is. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the First Amendment protects every citizen's right to free exercise of religion, and we, in Congress, must be zealous and vigilant partners with the Constitution in that enterprise.

From Charleston, South Carolina, to Charlottesville, Virginia; from suburban Maryland, where racial bias incidents are up 80 percent in my congressional district in 2017, to California, Oregon, and all over the country, America has seen a surge in threats and violence against individuals and religious real property in our country, all in an effort to deter our citizens from practicing their faith, or simply to assault or kill them for doing so.

There has also been a rise in threats made by telephone, in person, by email, or by phone all over the country, including to churches, synagogues, and mosques. In the first 7 months of this year, there were 63 reported incidents against mosques across 26 States, spanning from Florida to Hawaii. Clearly, Congress must act. We have excellent legislation in H.R. 1730 to expand our law to include threats of force, as well as to toughen up the penalties for this kind of conduct.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is good, bipartisan legislation to protect the religious freedom of people of all faiths. It is particularly important that we stand up at a time when some religious faiths are under particular pressure from those who would attempt to smother their ability to freely exercise their religious beliefs by intimidation. This legislation speaks strongly to that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Members on both sides of the aisle. I thank Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. KILMER, and others for their good work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1730, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2706, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 1730, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CUSTOMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2706) to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 2, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 672]

YEAS—395

Abraham	Brady (PA)	Cole
Adams	Brady (TX)	Collins (GA)
Aderholt	Brat	Collins (NY)
Aguilar	Brooks (AL)	Comer
Allen	Brooks (IN)	Comstock
Amash	Brown (MD)	Conaway
Amodei	Brownley (CA)	Connolly
Arrington	Buck	Cook
Babin	Bucshon	Cooper
Bacon	Budd	Correa
Banks (IN)	Burgess	Costa
Barr	Bustos	Costello (PA)
Barragán	Byrne	Courtney
Barton	Calvert	Cramer
Beatty	Capuano	Crawford
Bera	Carbajal	Crist
Bergman	Cárdenas	Crowley
Beyer	Carson (IN)	Cuellar
Biggs	Carter (GA)	Culberson
Bilirakis	Carter (TX)	Cummings
Bishop (GA)	Cartwright	Curbelo (FL)
Bishop (MI)	Castor (FL)	Curtis
Bishop (UT)	Castro (TX)	Davidson
Black	Chabot	Davis (CA)
Blum	Cheney	Davis, Rodney
Blumenauer	Chu, Judy	DeFazio
Blunt Rochester	Cicilline	DeGette
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	Delaney
Bost	Clyburn	DeLauro
Boyle, Brendan	Coffman	DelBene
F.	Cohen	Demings