

supported by 76 healthcare organizations, particularly those centered around nursing, a caring profession that every family relies on.

This bill addresses the frightening and accelerating epidemic of workplace violence that people who go to work every day in our hospitals, nursing homes, EMS, and ambulances, as well as our home health nurses, are facing every single day.

That is not just rhetoric. We did a GAO study a number of years ago and found that people who work in the healthcare sector suffer injuries, sometimes serious, sometimes fatal, five times more than any other sector in the U.S. economy.

There are ways to address this, Mr. Speaker, in terms of putting it into practice. Some preventative measures which hospitals have endorsed and used around the country are: train up their staff, give them a way to identify high-risk patients, give them the equipment, whether it is panic buttons or alerts to get help when they need it, and in some instances to provide more security dealing with more high-risk patients.

The 76 organizations include the American Nurses Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians. The list goes on and on.

They are feeling this every single day. In my district, unfortunately, last October, we experienced the tragic loss of a nurse. Joyce Grayson of Willimantic, Connecticut, was making a home health visit to a halfway house for a high-risk individual. He was on the sex offender list and had been convicted of a violent crime. She went in at 8 o'clock in the morning to administer medication, and she never left. She was found stabbed to death.

This is a woman who was 63 years old, 36 years as a nurse, 26 with the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, 10 years as a home health nurse, mother of 6, and she brought in foster care children. She was identified and awarded the Foster Care Parent of the Year in the State of Connecticut in 2017 by the Department of Children and Families. She was an angel. That was the way she was described at the time that we, as a State, came together to mourn her.

Her family has asked one thing. They want to see change. Their lawyer, Kelly Reardon of New London, Connecticut, gave an interview recently. That is what the family is begging for. They don't want this to happen again.

All of us rely on our healthcare workforce, Mr. Speaker. Republican or Democrat, all of us need them to take care of us. It is time for us to care for them. It is time for us to listen to them. It is time for us to put into practice commonsense measures which are happening intermittently around the country and make it universal and enforceable for all of the people in the caring profession and the healing profession.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass H.R. 2663 in this Congress and do something meaningful for the American people.

PROTECTING ALL CHILDREN, BORN AND UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 51 years since the Roe v. Wade decision was issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. Since that time, Americans have worked tirelessly to see that decision overturned.

As a doctor, I swore an oath to first do no harm and to protect the sanctity of human life. Here in Congress, we also swore an oath to protect our country and our citizens. That means that we must stand for human life.

This week, we will vote on legislation to block a proposed Biden administration rule that would prohibit States from giving funding to pregnancy resource centers that support the lives of both mothers and their unborn children.

At 9 weeks of age, a baby has begun to form facial features, fingernails, and toes. At 20 weeks, a baby can hear their mother's voice. It is clear that these are children.

In Congress, it is our duty to protect the lives of the vulnerable. This week, let's join together and fight to protect all children, both born and unborn.

FENTANYL CONTINUES TO PERMEATE INTO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week the Pennsylvania State Police released a report outlining the amount of illegal drugs that have been seized in Pennsylvania during arrests in 2023. The facts of this report are shocking, showing that over 240 pounds of fentanyl were seized in the past year compared to 35 pounds of heroin.

These statistics represent a dangerous new reality for our communities, that fentanyl and its analogues, which can be fatal in incredibly small doses, are now readily accessible and widespread throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Right now, lives are at stake as this poison continues to permeate into the United States. As I travel throughout central and southwestern Pennsylvania, I have heard from coroners who tell me that these drugs are very easy to get and very fast to kill.

It is time for the Senate to immediately take up the HALT Fentanyl Act and permanently classify these drugs as schedule I narcotics and create strict penalties for the cartels and for the dealers who traffic them.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to stand by as our constituents are killed by fentanyl poisonings.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF WARD SWEAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Ward Sweat, who is retiring after 54 years of working at Sweat's Furniture.

Mr. Sweat was originally from north of Waycross where he spent his early years before moving to Brunswick with his family.

He graduated from Glynn Academy in 1964 and the University of Georgia in 1968. Shortly after graduation, he completed basic training in the National Guard and started working at the furniture store located in Fitzgerald in 1969, which his dad and the Singletons owned, along with a second location in Brunswick.

In 1984, his father bought out the Singletons, and Ward and his brother Dwight came to work there. The family business will continue to live on with Dwight's son Jonathan, who is taking over management there, which marks the third generation of Sweats in the store.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Sweat on his upcoming retirement. I thank him for his service to the community.

REMEMBERING BOB GRIFFITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bob Griffith, who passed away at the age of 79.

Bob Griffith, Sr., was a longtime Effingham County football coach and was best known as a family man with dedication to his sport, his fellow coaches, and his players.

Griffith was a former Virginia Tech team captain, having also coached at Effingham County High School, Appling County, and Colquitt County. He was also a member of the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and he was awarded both State and regional Coach of the Year back in 1987.

Griffith worked for some time at Georgia Tech where he was honored with a scholarship established in his name, endowed by many of his former players.

□ 1215

However, coaching was about much more than any wins or awards. Friends of Griffith have spoken to his character, explaining how he was always helping out the Effingham program by showing up to spring practices and helping to raise money. Bob Griffith's legacy will be remembered by his teams, family, friends, community, and so many more.

CONGRATULATING RICCIARDI'S PIZZA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Georgia restaurant that has been recognized for making the best Chicago-style pizza in Georgia according to a Washington

Post analysis. Ricciardi's Pizzeria and Bar in Richmond Hill, located about one-half hour from Savannah, was one of the six Georgia pizza spots highlighted by the national outlet for its Chicago-style pizza.

The Windy City specializes in making delicious Chicago-style pizzas. The Washington Post used millions of Yelp reviews and have developed a formula to identify the best pizza options in each State, which led to Ricciardi's being ranked No. 3.

Congratulations to Ricciardi's on this wonderful accomplishment. I wish them continued success in serving great pizza to the people of the First District.

CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of four Chatham Emergency Services firefighters who put their lives on the line to save others.

The Savannah Exchange Club recently named Robert Bateman as the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year, Donte Boykin as Rookie Firefighter of the Year, Dustin Turk as Professional Firefighter of the Year, and Lieutenant Ray Jennings as Paramedic of the Year.

Chatham Emergency Services CEO, Chuck Kearns, spoke of the crews and community board saying they "are some of the most dedicated and service-oriented professionals and volunteers" he has encountered.

As Chatham Emergency Services begins its 63rd year of service, I again thank Robert, Donte, Dustin, Ray, and all its members for their hard work to keep our community safe.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, You have taught us how to pray. And with this familiar prayer or the prayers that reside deep in our souls, we offer these prayers to You. However we approach You, we pray that You will accept our manner of worship as holy and acceptable to You.

Even as You receive us, in the multitude of languages and the range of voices that ascend to Your hearing,

You teach us also how to love, commanding us to love one another even as You have loved us—with all our strengths and shortfalls, gifts and gaffes, differences and divisions.

On this day, which marks the 238th anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, authored by Thomas Jefferson, may it not be law but love that compels us to safeguard the freedom of religion for our fellow citizens. May it not be statute but stewardship of Your grace that calls us to honor the principles of the First Amendment, respecting the faith of all peoples.

Remind us again, that we owe no one anything but to love one another. And as we love one another, may we have fulfilled Your great command.

In the light of Your love, we pray in the name by which we know You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BALINT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

POSTAL SERVICE FOR RURAL AMERICA

(Ms. BALINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, let me just say may the record show the Vermonter is here. Snow across D.C.; the Vermonter is here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a voice for rural America. In Vermont's capital city, Montpelier, we do not have a functioning post office. This is completely unacceptable.

The post office is a vital, nonnegotiable part of our communities. It is part of the fabric of rural America. Seniors depend on it, small businesses depend on it, and our downtowns depend on it to keep our communities vibrant and connected.

Vermonters are frustrated, and rightly so, not only because they have been denied reliable, accessible service, but because the USPS has failed to give us any answers as we try to rectify this failure.

Vermonters are not asking much. A fully functional post office in a State's capital city is not a big ask. We must

get back to making government work for the people at its most basic functions.

When we ignore this need, we continue to erode faith in the government, and we leave communities behind. I won't stop raising my voice until reliable Postal Service is restored in Montpelier, Vermont, and in other parts of rural America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1637

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JAMES) at 4 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

MOVING AMERICANS PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1568) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1568

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 "Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act".

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraph (2) of section 431(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1431(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2)(A) The information listed in paragraph (1) shall not be available for public disclosure if—

"(i) the Secretary of the Treasury makes an affirmative finding on a shipment-by-shipment basis that disclosure is likely to pose a threat of personal injury or property damage; or

"(ii) the information is exempt under the provisions of section 552(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

"(B) The Secretary shall ensure that any personally identifiable information, including Social Security numbers and passport numbers, is removed from any manifest signed, produced, delivered, or electronically transmitted under