

did not get an avalanche of condemnation.

There lies the problem. It usually starts with a joke, a slur, a comparison. It starts with what might be called casual acts of anti-Semitism that can be just easy to brush off. If left unchecked, this rhetoric can manifest into overt acts, like the vandalism of Jewish institutions and houses of worship, threats and verbal abuse meant to intimidate Jewish communities, and so on and so on and so on.

If those acts are left unchecked, the next and final step is physical violence: beating up Jewish college students, arson and destruction of Jewish institutions, and, horrifically, the murder of Jewish individuals.

These are patterns that are starting to emerge once again. Over the last decade, anti-Semitism has been on the rise. Year after year, we are seeing record numbers of anti-Semitic incidences, especially after the October 7 terrorist attack in Israel.

According to an ADL report released a few weeks ago, 2025 was the third highest year for anti-Semitic incidents since the ADL began collecting data, and physical assaults against Jews were higher in 2025 than ever before.

Just think about that. Physical assaults against Jews were at the highest since ADL began tracking this data nearly 50 years ago.

We are fortunate we live in a country that values and protects our freedom to express our beliefs, with our words, through our acts of peaceful protest, and at the ballot box. But it does not protect or condone acts of violence or incitement of violence. Surely, we can all recognize that political and ideological disagreements and differences never—never ever—justify hatred or violence. And we all must agree that the intimidation, discrimination, violence, and even murder of Jews is just plain wrong and unacceptable.

As one of only a few Jewish women to ever serve in the U.S. Senate and as the first and only former synagogue president in the Senate, for me, this distinction is deeply personal. This work is not abstract. As a Jewish American, I, too, have faced instances of hate where I was targeted simply because I was Jewish.

When I was just a little girl—about 2 years old—my family took a trip to Florida. My mom had me in the hotel pool, and, out of nowhere, a lifeguard told my mom to get me out of the pool because I was “dirty.”

My mom was confused. She was kind of taken aback. She looked at the lifeguard. She said: I just gave her a bath. She is clean.

She was clearly confused by what the lifeguard had told her.

Then the lifeguard told my mom what he really meant. I was dirty because I was Jewish. Get that dirty little Jewish girl out of the pool.

My mom didn't say another word. She scooped me up. She packed up her stuff. We left. I know she never brought

me back to this pool. In fact, my parents switched to another hotel.

I know this story so well because my mother told it over and over and over again as a life-changing moment for her, as I heard my parents recall the pain throughout my entire life. It stayed with them, the hurt, the humiliation, the shame. As I got older, and now my parents are gone, that story stays with me too.

And if you think becoming a U.S. Senator puts a stop to those attacks, well, I am going to tell you that you are sadly mistaken. A few years ago, a man called my office, said some very vile things. He threatened my life. And among other things, he promised to—and I guess I will quote here, sadly, “finish what Hitler started.”

Thanks to the swift work of law enforcement—I am grateful for law enforcement—this man is now behind bars. But if he thought that he would intimidate me and force me to be quiet, the effect was quite the opposite because here I am. Here I am. And it fueled my passion to continue working across party lines in the U.S. Senate to raise awareness and fight back against anti-Jewish bigotry.

That is why I have been working for the better part of a year with my friend JAMES LANKFORD on our bipartisan Jewish American Security Act, which we introduced yesterday, to take sweeping action to combat anti-Semitism at the Federal level.

This comprehensive bill will help keep Jewish students safe, help secure community institutions, and help fight anti-Semitism online.

It will protect Jewish students by establishing a new position, an anti-Semitism coordinator at the Department of Education to lead efforts to combat anti-Semitism. It will create a comprehensive title VI infrastructure on college campuses, and it will make sure that campus hate crime—that hate crime data actually shows all of us who is being attacked and who is being threatened.

This bill will protect Jewish communal institutions, houses of worship, community centers by making a historic investment of \$1 billion toward the Nonprofit Security Grant Program and will keep our houses of worship safe.

This bill will also make a series of long overdue reforms to this program to make sure that it actually works for at-risk institutions. And this bill will combat rising anti-Semitism online by requiring transparency from social media companies, well, about how they really treat anti-Semitic content, including instances of such content, how much anti-Semitic content was promoted, recommended by their platform, and whether such content was leaked to an inauthentic account, and consider it an FTC violation if they fail to provide us with this information.

I know the road ahead for this legislation will be long, but I am hopeful that my colleagues on both sides of the

aisle will provide their support because at the end of the day, we can all agree that Jewish Americans deserve to be treated—and to be safe—treated with respect, meant to be safe, well, the same as every other American.

But at its core, this is more than just about policy. It is about people. It is about dignity. It is about ensuring that no child, no family, no little girl like I was at a public swimming pool had to experience what I did and my family did or even worse.

You know, I often think back to that little girl in the pool. She is still there. That little child is in all of us, and I think about the world that I want for her, a world where she is not told that she is less than for being Jewish, a world where she is not excluded from activities because of her faith, and a world where she is safe, respected, and proud of who she is.

I have a daughter. That is the world I am creating and hoping for her and for all the other children in this world as well. This bill will go a long way in helping to make a difference in making that world a reality.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I want to commend my friend the Senator from Nevada for her powerful comments and the fact that she knows that I and many other Senators will stand totally united with her in fighting back against any rise in anti-Semitism—further rise, because we have seen amazingly outrageous things happen. Thank you for your story.

#### GERALD E. CONNOLLY ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS ACT OF 2025

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to ask unanimous consent to complete a unanimous consent request.

Tomorrow, it will be 1 year since we lost Congressman Gerry Connolly. I first met Gerry Connolly when he was a rising supervisor on the Fairfax County Board in the late eighties. Jerry took great pains to never forget his Irishness, the famous St. Patrick's Day party.

He was a fighter. He was kind and funny; but boy, you did not want to get on the wrong side of Gerry Connolly because sometimes that fighting spirit would show itself in his relentless—relentless—efforts. Getting in an argument with Gerry was not something anybody ever looked forward to.

So it was a great loss that we lost him. Literally tomorrow will be a year. But beyond the personal loss to his family and to folks like me and my friend from Virginia as well TIM KAINE, both considered him a longtime friend. And frankly to communities in Northern Virginia and beyond, Federal employees lost a leader who never, ever stopped fighting for them, never stopped fighting for their rights, never stopped fighting for their due process, and never stopped making the case to

Americans the value Federal workers bring to our everyday lives.

And in his final days, Gerry continued to center Federal employees in his work. Two days before he died, he introduced H.R. 3490, which will direct the Government Accountability Office to report on esophageal cancer in Federal employees.

The bill directs GAO to help us understand the landscape of esophageal cancer among Federal employees and retirees, particularly access to early screening and early treatment.

For some folks, they have a precancerous condition that if treated early, can help prevent esophageal cancer completely. This bill is simple. It would ask GAO to study if Federal employees who are at high risk are getting screened as early as possible to help them make sure they get the care they need as early as possible.

The bill was passed unanimously, 42 to nothing in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and then passed by a voice vote on the floor.

In a moment, I am going to ask unanimous consent that we pass this bill here on the Senate floor, but before I make that request, I want to defer and yield my time to the Senator—fellow Senator from Virginia Senator KAINE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I am so pleased to be with my colleague Senator WARNER to talk about Gerry Connolly prior to offering a unanimous consent motion on this bill.

If you met Gerry once, you would remember a very, very fun and colorful guy. He studied for the priesthood to be a Maryknoll priest and then left the priesthood to marry his wife “Smitty” who studied to be a nun and then left her order.

His first job after he left the seminary was a staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and then he went onto this wonderful career, as Mark described, on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors before eventually becoming chairman of that board and then coming to Congress.

Gerry personified a pride in Irish Catholicism. As Mark said, his St. Patrick’s Day parties were absolutely legendary in Virginia, and he was a tireless advocate for so many.

The point that Mark made about esophageal cancer and its effect and its growing effect in this country is important to underline. This was the condition that claimed Gerry’s life, but how powerful not even 2 days before died, he was trying to advance our understanding of this.

Esophageal cancer is the fastest growing cancer among men in the United States. We are not exactly sure why, but we can get more data and do more analysis of this and then provide options for care should this resolution pass.

That is why I am so glad to stand with my friend Senator WARNER to

honor a great public servant, a great American Gerry Connolly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as if in legislation session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3490 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3490) to require the Government Accountability Office to produce a report on esophageal cancer, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3490) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### TERMINATING RESTRICTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF YOUTH SETTLEMENTS LAW

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to share the story of a young man who didn’t have the opportunity to share his own story.

His name was Trey Carlock, and for years, he struggled in silence with the trauma and the wounds inflicted by someone he once trusted at a summer camp he attended for many years. So let me share Trey’s story.

Trey was a young man who loved the Lord. He loved his family. He loved his friends. And he proudly resided in my home State of Texas. As a young boy, Trey attended summer camp in Branson, MO, where he and dozens of other campers were sexually assaulted by the camp director.

And as an adult, Trey sought accountability. He filed a lawsuit against the camp he attended in an effort to hold the camp responsible and to seek justice, not only for himself but for others.

But instead of justice, Trey was offered a settlement, and that settlement came with a nondisclosure agreement which mandated Trey’s silence. After years of fighting to recover from abuse, Trey’s settlement reminded him that his voice could be bought, that his story could be buried, that the price of compensation was silence.

Trey once told his therapist “They will always control me, and I’ll never be free.” Not long after, Trey died by

suicide. He was only 28 years old. No child who has endured sexual abuse should be forced to carry that horror in silence. No child should be forced to walk alone in that pain. And no child should be forced to accept agreements that protect the abuser.

In Trey’s case, and, tragically many others, nondisclosure agreements are used to shield the abuser. Children are the most vulnerable and most precious members of our society. As legislators, as parents, as human beings, we have a moral obligation to stand between children and those who would harm them. That is why I have introduced TREY’S Law.

TREY’S Law will protect, defend, and support children who are the victims of sexual assault. It ensures that nondisclosure agreements cannot be used to silence minors who have endured abuse. At the same time, the bill preserves the confidentiality of settlement amounts and allows victims themselves to insist on privacy if they so choose. What it does not allow is the forced silencing of victims in order to protect abusers.

TREY’S Law establishes a clear national baseline: no NDA may be used to silence the disclosure of child sexual abuse. And importantly, this legislation does not prevent the States from going further. Versions of TREY’S Law have already passed in Texas, in Alabama, in Missouri, Tennessee, California, and other States have also taken steps to prohibit the use of NDAs in cases of child sexual abuse. These are meaningful steps in the right direction, but we owe it to Trey and every victim to ensure that they have the right to speak about their experiences, they have the right to rely on those around them, that they know their stories will not be silenced, and, most importantly, that they are not alone.

In just a moment, I will propound a unanimous consent request to take up and pass TREY’S Law to make sure that no other children feel controlled or defeated by the system that is supposed to deliver them justice.

TREY’S Law has already passed the Judiciary Committee unanimously, and I want to thank Senators GILLIBRAND and BRITT and my colleagues on the entire Judiciary Committee for working on this legislation and helping us push this across the finish line.

And with that, I yield the floor to Senator BRITT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I rise today to stand with Senator CRUZ. Senator CRUZ’s leadership on this important issue has led us to today where I am hopeful that the Senate will provide a unanimous vote for TREY’S Law.

You heard Senator CRUZ tell the story that tugs at your heartstrings; it is unimaginable. As a parent, I cannot imagine my child enduring that and then that child being forced into silence. It should never happen again.