

views of stakeholders may very well not align with the bill's requirements.

Adopting H.R. 1309 discounts the complexity of the underlying issue and the importance of the knowledge and experience stakeholders can offer.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chair, I am sure we can all agree that retribution for people reporting violence in the workplace is something that is important, that people should not face retribution, that they should not fear reporting when they personally or their coworkers face violence on the job. So I hope that we will have broad support for this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1045

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland) having assumed the chair, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1309) to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1838.—An act to amend The Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 2710.—An act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland). Pursuant to House Resolution 713 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1309.

Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1047

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R.

1309) to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes, with Ms. JACKSON LEE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 116-302 offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 116-302.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 5, after "(4)(C)." insert the following: "Not later than May 15 of each year, the Secretary shall provide to Congress a report containing statistical data with respect to, and a summary of, reports submitted to the Secretary under this paragraph. The contents of the report of the Secretary shall not disclose any confidential information."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 713, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I am proud to be a sponsor of H.R. 1309 for a multiplicity of reasons, and I thank Mr. COURTNEY for introducing this legislation.

Madam Chair, I am proud to tell you also that within my congressional district in Houston, Texas, we have the largest medical center in the world.

Madam Chair, annually, the Houston Medical Center encounters 10 million patients. The Houston Medical Center also, Madam Chair, has 106,000 employees. The Houston Medical Center is 17 times larger than the average city in the United States of America.

We understand the scope of this problem, and there is a problem. But, sometimes, problems are not best explained with statistical information. Sometimes, the words of people can make the difference in understanding a problem.

I have within my hand a letter from the National Nurses United organization. Hear now their words:

Violence on the job has become endemic for RNs and other workers in healthcare and social assistance settings. Nurses report being punched, kicked, bitten, beaten, and threatened with violence as they provide care to others. Far too many have experienced stabbing and shootings.

Madam Chair, the evidence is overwhelming. We do have a problem. To understand the scope of the problem, you have to have some intelligence ac-

corded some repository so that it can be properly assessed. The Secretary of Labor will be the repository. We will get the information to the Secretary.

But this is not enough, to merely have the Secretary of Labor have the sense of what the scope is. The buck stops with Congress. Congress needs to know the scope of the problem. If changes are necessary and not being made, the buck stops with us. We will have to encounter this, and we will have to take up our duty, responsibility, and obligation to provide the proper legislation.

With this understanding, we have filed amendment No. 6. This amendment understands that the Secretary will receive the information, and then this amendment would require the Secretary to annually report to Congress so that Congress will have the transparency that the Secretary has so that Congress may take appropriate action when necessary. Understanding the scope of the problem helps you understand the scope of a necessary solution, if there is one.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. I claim the time in opposition, Madam Chair.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, it is very disturbing to me as a citizen of this country, to hear the talk about increasing incidents of violence. We know that is occurring all over our country, everywhere. However, this bill is not going to respond to the underlying causes of that increased violence, and neither will this amendment.

This amendment ignores the fundamental reason that employers maintain good recordkeeping. It allows employers to review their internal procedures and determine how to improve their safety culture. While it is very important for facilities to keep accurate records of incidents, responses to incidents, and annual data, providing this information annually to OSHA will not result in greater safety benefits.

Requiring the Secretary of Labor to provide this data to Congress goes yet another ill-advised step further. Employers utilize these records to improve internal management processes in order to protect their workplace. However, if they must submit these reports to OSHA, which will, in turn, provide them to Congress, this will discourage the use of these records to make improvements, as the employer has no guarantee the records will not be released by OSHA either intentionally or unintentionally.

Workplace violence records must be maintained and protected onsite as they contain personal employee information as well as patient-client information. An OSHA inspector would still have the right to review the records upon inspection of the facility.

Again, this amendment's provisions and the underlying recordkeeping and