

RECOGNIZING THE TOLL GUN VIOLENCE TAKES ON SURVIVORS

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the toll that gun violence takes on survivors left to struggle in the wake of unspeakable tragedy.

When we talk about gun violence, we usually focus on lives lost, but the full cost of gun violence is measured in the lives irreparably changed by physical and mental wounds. Survivors are the students who hid under desks and in closets at their schools, domestic violence victims who tried to hold front doors shut and shield their children, and families left with holes where loved ones used to be. I know because I am a gun violence survivor.

According to Everytown, 58 percent of Americans have witnessed or been threatened with gun violence or know someone who has. This is National Gun Violence Survivors Week. Let's honor survivors by refusing to let their experiences become the new normal.

RURAL AMERICANS NEED ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CARE

(Mr. GREEN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, over the past decade, more than 100 rural hospitals have been forced to close their doors, including 12 hospitals in Tennessee. These communities are now left without access to healthcare in general, let alone emergency care.

Many rural hospitals across the Nation continue to face significant financial difficulties. As this crisis continues at a growing rate, current Federal regulations stand in the way, only allowing a free-standing emergency department within 35 miles of a hospital.

My bill, the Rural ER Access Act, would repeal this ridiculous 35-mile rule to permit free-standing emergency departments to operate in the rural communities that need them the most.

As an emergency medicine physician, I believe that we should and can make sure that rural Americans are not left without access to emergency care because of some unnecessary bureaucratic regulation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore MATSUI on Monday, February 3, 2020:

S. 153, to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research;

S. 3201, to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to her left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber Security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2034

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 86 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS);

The gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY); and

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN);

The Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN); and

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associates Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of