

and that is financial security. I want to give the working families of Nevada the opportunity to save more of their hard-earned money for their retirement, their children's education, and their families' future. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the hard-working American family and eliminate the unfair marriage penalty. It is time to give our families a break.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

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

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

**SCHOOL SAFETY HOTLINE ACT OF
2000**

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5123) to require the Secretary of Education to provide notification to States and State educational agencies regarding the availability of certain administrative funds to establish school safety hotlines.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5123

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) an estimated 255,000 violent incidents occurred in 1999 on school property, at an official school function, or while traveling to and from school;

(2) for the complete school year July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998, there were 58 school-associated violent deaths that resulted from 46 incidents; 46 of these violent deaths were homicides, 11 were suicides, and 1 teenager was killed by a law enforcement officer in the course of duty;

(3) although fewer school-associated violent deaths have occurred in recent years, the total number of multiple victim homicide events has increased;

(4) in 1997, 5 percent of all 12th graders reported that they had been purposefully injured, while they were at school, with a weapon such as a knife, gun, or club during the prior 12 months, and 14 percent reported that they had been injured on purpose without a weapon;

(5) on average, each year from 1993 to 1997, there were 131,400 violent crimes against teachers at schools, as reported by teachers from both public and private schools, which translates into a rate of 31 violent crimes for every 1,000 teachers;

(6) tools should be created for, and provided to, students, teachers, parents, and administrators across the country so that they have the ability to provide the information necessary to law enforcement authorities to take action before other tragedies occur; and

(7) school safety hotlines allow students, parents, and school personnel the opportunity to report threats of school violence to law enforcement authorities, thus reducing incidents of youth violence.

SEC. 2. NOTIFICATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall provide written notification to the States and State educational agencies of the ability of States or State educational agencies, as appropriate, to use State administrative funds provided under title IV and title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to implement programs related to the establishment and operation of a toll-free telephone hotline that students, parents, and school personnel use to report suspicious, violent, or threatening behavior related to schools or school functions to law enforcement authorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5123.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5123, the School Safety Hotline Act of 2000, which would require the Secretary of Education to notify State education agencies so that they can use funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to establish school safety hotlines.

One of the effects of the recent rash of violence in our Nation's schools is that many of our students no longer feel safe. Recent studies and polls have confirmed this, showing that the number of students who fear violence in their school is at a record level. We cannot expect the educational process to continue unencumbered when teachers and students are as concerned with their safety as they are with teaching and learning.

School safety hotlines allow students, teachers, parents, and school personnel the opportunity to report threats or acts of violence to authorities. They give everyone back some of the security that they deserve, allowing them to concentrate on teaching and learning, the very reasons for which they are in school.

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According to the report "The School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective" released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last week, one of the most important aspects of identifying

potential violent adolescents is detecting that point at which they begin to talk about the event they are planning, when a student intentionally or unintentionally reveals clues to feelings, thoughts, fantasies, attitudes, or intentions that may signal an impending violent act.

Not too long ago we had the opportunity to hear from members of the Secret Service who came into our office and made us aware of the fact that they had been working on a profile similar to this, or a document similar to this, and looking at the number of people who have been involved with either threats against personnel or threats against elected officials or people who have carried out those threats, and then looking at what they found were similar characteristics among the people who had been involved with school shootings and school violence.

One of the things they told us, there were several common elements, but the one that struck my attention at the time was the fact that all of these people tell somebody; that none of them have acted alone, in a vacuum, without ever letting anyone know of their intentions.

If that is the case, if in fact that happens and these people are inclined toward that and do in fact tell others, then something like the school safety hotline, the need for it is quite evident.

In the aftermath of the tragedies around the country, I worked in cooperation with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the Colorado Department of Education, U.S. West, now Qwest, AT&T, and local sheriffs departments throughout the State to establish the Colorado school safety hotline. We were able to pool the resources of State agencies and private companies to provide this needed resource for the State which provides parents, students, and teachers with a valuable tool in our efforts to make schools safe.

We were able to come together as elected leaders, administrators, neighbors, friends, and families to search for ways to restore that sense of safety and security to our schools. Now if someone learns of a potential threat to a fellow student, a teacher, or a school facility, they have an opportunity to provide this information to law enforcement and school authorities who will follow up on their tip, and they can do so anonymously.

All reports to the hotline are kept strictly confidential. Here is how it works, and here is how it has worked in Colorado. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation answers the school safety hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is enormously important. We have talked to other people and other school districts that have implemented these, but they are not really always available and accessible to a live person on the other end. Sometimes they go into a recording. That leaves a great deal of liability for the agency involved.