Mr. Scalise Opening Statement – Does HIPAA Help or Hinder Patient Care and Public Safety?

Mr. Chairman, families across America are grieving and searching for answers about why America’s mental health system has failed them and how it can be fixed. At the center of this investigation is a focus on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, otherwise known as HIPAA, which was passed more than fifteen years ago in an effort to promote patient privacy through the protection of health information and records. HIPAA has been highlighted as the source of many communication issues and roadblocks between patients, providers, and parental guardians. I will be submitting a series of questions for the record on behalf of my constituents, Pat and Debbie Milam, who tragically lost their son Mathew and experienced many obstacles within the mental health system. Mr. Chairman, I am committed to helping the Milams and other families in similarly frustrating situations get to the bottom of these systemic failures in America’s mental health system. I appreciate your interest and look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.