

care for in this Nation. We need to reduce the serious health disparities. We need to also ensure that there is a public option, that there is universal access to health care. Make it a good Medicare plan that helps the young, the old, and the working Americans.

In addition, we need to be fair to how we pay for it. We need to realize that physician-owned hospitals are not the enemy. In fact, they help to, in essence, bring down health disparities. Many physician-owned hospitals or investor-owned hospitals with doctors involved are in the urban and rural areas where no other hospitals would go. Let's fix this system in a fair manner that addresses the question of making sure the 47 million-plus who are underinsured and those without insurance can have a good public option, can as well have a fair system of good doctors and have good hospitals and make it work for working Americans and others who are in need.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF DR. GEORGE TILLER

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 505) condemning the murder of Dr. George Tiller, who was shot to death at his church on May 31, 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 505

Whereas Dr. George Tiller was murdered in Wichita, Kansas, on May 31, 2009;

Whereas Dr. Tiller is mourned by his family, friends, congregation, community, and colleagues;

Whereas Dr. Tiller, 67, was killed in his place of worship, a place intended for peace and refuge that in a moment became a place for violence and murder;

Whereas places of worship should be sanctuaries, but have increasingly borne witness to reprehensible acts of violence, with 38 people in the United States killed in their place of worship in the past 10 years and 30 people wounded in those same incidents;

Whereas these acts of violence include the murder of an Illinois pastor at the pulpit in March 2009, the murder of an Ohio minister in November 2008, the murder of an usher and a guest during a children's play in a Tennessee church in July 2008, the murder of four family members in a church in Louisiana in May 2006, and the shooting of a worshipper outside a synagogue in Florida in October 2005; and

Whereas violence is deplorable, and never an acceptable avenue for expressing opposing viewpoints: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) offers its condolences to Dr. Tiller's family; and

(2) commits to the American principle that tolerance must always be superior to intolerance, and that violence is never an appropriate response to a difference in beliefs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 505, which condemns the murder of Dr. George Tiller, who was shot to death at his church on May 31. The resolution also offers the condolences of the House of Representatives to Dr. Tiller's family. I know that Dr. Tiller and his family are in the thoughts and prayers of every Member of the House today.

I want to commend our colleague, the distinguished chairperson of the Rules Committee, my fellow New Yorker, Ms. SLAUGHTER, for introducing this resolution.

It is imperative that the House of Representatives speak with a united voice in condemning this crime. It is a sad reminder that medical personnel are still at risk from armed extremists who are willing to resort to deadly violence in order to advance their causes even when they cloak their cause in the language of life. There can never be room in a free society for the use of deadly violence to advance a cause. It is against everything this country stands for. I have no doubt there isn't a single Member of this House who would disagree.

This resolution renews our commitment to the American principle that tolerance must always be superior to intolerance and that violence is never an appropriate response to differences and belief.

As deplorable as this murder was, it was all the more reprehensible because the victim was targeted as he was leaving church. In the past 10 years, 38 people have been murdered in their place of worship and 30 more have been wounded.

Dr. Tiller was a controversial figure. He was the target of threats and even a prior shooting because of his dedication to providing needed, if unpopular, services. He was murdered solely because of the work he did. The continued violence directed at abortion pro-

viders, including doctors and the people who staff their clinics, is well-known. Bombings, shootings, vandalism, and harassment all serve to warn women and their health care providers that they may pay a terrible price if they choose to avail themselves of their rights under the Constitution.

This was not the first time a health care provider was similarly targeted. I am sure every Member of this House and every decent American, however they may feel or whatever they may believe on the question of abortion, will insist that this and every other question must be decided by our legal, constitutional, and democratic processes and not by murderous violence. I am sure we all condemn those people or groups who espouse or excuse domestic terrorism.

But while violence has long been directed at the clinics and the people who work there, this time the killer chose, in addition, to invade the sanctity of the Sabbath. Murderous intolerance is never justified; even so, the idea of bringing death and mayhem to a house of worship strikes all people as particularly reprehensible. These acts include the murder of an Illinois pastor in the pulpit in March of this year; the murder of an Ohio minister in November of last year; the murder of an usher and a guest during a children's play in a Tennessee church in July of last year; the murder of four family members in a church in Louisiana in May 2006; and the shooting of a worshipper outside a synagogue in Florida in October 2005; not to mention the attempted bombings of two synagogues in Riverdale in the Bronx just a few weeks ago. Whether these acts of violence target one individual or an entire community of faith, we must all join together and speak out against them.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand up to those who would bring their reign of terror into a house of worship and those who would seek to change American law by violence and unconstitutional means to express their opprobrium of this conduct by supporting this resolution condemning the murder of George Tiller and extending the condolences of this House to the members of Dr. Tiller's family.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. I rise in support of the House Resolution 505, Mr. Speaker. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support House Resolution 505 which deplores the murder of Dr. George Tiller who was shot to death at his church, as has already been mentioned, on May 31. I join with the National Right to Life Committee, the Nation's largest pro-life group, in condemning the killing of Dr. Tiller. As that organization correctly said, Anyone who works to increase respect for human life must oppose any unlawful use of violence that is directly contrary to that goal.

Because I believe everyone who is the victim of unlawful violence should be

treated equally under the law, I voted against the so-called hate crimes bill when it was brought up on the House floor earlier this year. The resolution we are now debating and another we will debate today recognize what should be obvious to all, which is that anyone can be the victim of hate-inspired crimes and that the perpetrators of those crimes should be equally condemned and punished.

I urge, Mr. Speaker, all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the chairperson of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about the senseless killing of a good man as he was volunteering as an usher among family and friends in his place of worship. Dr. George Tiller got shot to death, as most of us know, at his church in Wichita, Kansas, on May 31. A single gunshot fired by a man who apparently has a long history of animosity to a woman's right to choose ended the life of a man who had dedicated his life to helping others and was a stark reminder to all of us of the raw emotion surrounding this issue.

In the days since the arrest of the shooter, we have now heard reports that even more violence may be planned against doctors who believe in choice. And while this kind of violence is deplorable, it seems to me that this act is particularly villainous because it took place in a house of worship.

□ 1245

This church, a place where people come together to seek peace, safety, and protection, was in an instant transformed into a place of shocking, senseless violence.

Our places of worship are meant to be peaceful refuges for those who seek serenity in times of turmoil and safety in times of hostility. The sanctity of these places is honored at all times and without regard to denomination. There should be no exception to this rule that we are taught early and that provides us with a structure for our interaction with other faiths and beliefs. Only the most evil can bring violence into these sacred buildings. To defile houses of worship with bloodshed is nothing less than villainous, and we should not tolerate such actions in a civilized society.

For millennia, into the Middle Ages, our churches, synagogues, mosques, and others have been the center of communities, places of scholarship, proponents of peace and love among humankind. There is more to a place of worship than its physical presence; there is a sense of community and accord and safety where worshippers can share their faith. But when you look at our recent history, what we have seen is a disturbing rise in violence at

churches that we have taken no note of in the House of Representatives. As mentioned, 68 persons have been shot, dead, wounded or assaulted in violence in religious institutions here in the United States. This is more than deplorable.

Deepening the tragedy is the fact that, until now, there has been no expression of outrage decrying violence in a place of worship. It shakes the foundations of our communities, our principles, and our Nation. It is not a Christian issue or a Jewish issue or an Islamic issue or any one faith. It is a test of what we as a society are willing to tolerate and a reminder that some people in this Nation do not respect the sanctity of a house of worship.

The brutal killing of Dr. Tiller was the latest church killing. In March of 2009, Rev. Fred Winters was killed while at the pulpit by gunfire at the First Baptist Church in Illinois. It was only after the gun malfunctioned that members of the congregation subdued the shooter to prevent further fatalities.

Rev. Donald Fairbanks, Sr., was fatally shot at the Ninth Street Baptist Church of Covington, Kentucky, in November of 2008. He was visiting from his Cincinnati, Ohio, church to attend a funeral for a woman with relatives in his congregation. Grief turned to fear as the gunman opened fire in the church.

In July 2008, an usher and a guest were shot and killed during the opening act of a children's play in Knoxville, Tennessee. This time, the gunman walked into the sanctuary carrying a guitar case with a 12-gauge shotgun. He is said to have fired over 40 shots, killing two and injuring seven.

In May 2006, five family members were killed by a gunman who opened fire during a church service at The Ministry of Jesus Christ Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A whole family was wiped out, and the shooter's wife was abducted from the church and killed nearby.

One of the most upsetting church killings in recent memory occurred in 1999 when a lone gunman massacred seven worshippers and wounded seven others at a youth celebration—150 teenagers strong—that was taking place in the sanctuary of the Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. The assault was one of the worst ever, and I know there was a tremendous sense of loss after that awful act.

Why doesn't America care about this? Why have we said absolutely nothing about it? Why are we now allowing concealed weapons to be carried in Federal parks where, frankly, I hope most people will not be able to go in any notion that they might come out of there alive.

Dr. Tiller's family held a memorial service for him over the weekend after his burial on Friday, and he was remembered by all four of his children for his care and devotion as both a phy-

sician and father. It is a senseless tragedy, and so I offer this resolution and hope that all Members of this House will say "no more."

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 12 additional minutes.

Mr. NADLER of New York. I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, our society has too often, recently, devolved into violence to address controversy.

The murder of a doctor, who was beloved by his family, trusted by his patients, and respected by his community, is never an acceptable form of expression. While virtually all established groups have condemned this act, some individuals are still threatening violence against the health care providers they disagree with. The message to those people needs to be unequivocal and it needs to be unanimous: We will not condone violence in any form, and those who perpetrate it will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Mr. Speaker, we must have a civil discourse in this society, and this is something we all have to strive for together. I know that we on our side of the aisle and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle all believe this. We need to put it into action.

I will say that Dr. George Tiller is survived by his wife, Jeanne, their four children and their 10 grandchildren. I think the saddest thing about all this and the thing that personalizes it the most is that Jeanne called Dr. Tiller "Buddy." And the reason she called him Buddy was because he was her best friend.

Mr. Speaker, the mark of a civilized society must be civil discourse. We cannot lose one more of someone's best friend because of this lack of civility.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished chairman and the author of this legislation, the distinguished gentlelady from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), chairperson of the Rules Committee. And I rise to simply say to this House and to America, enough is enough.

I am delighted that we have heard the majority of pro-life organizations, who are Americans as well, denounce this horrific act. My deepest sympathy to Dr. Tiller's wife and children and grandchildren, but I think it is not enough to offer our sympathy; it is a requirement that we denounce this with every fiber of our body.

In addition, I think it is important, as we go forward, that right-to-life organizations learn to respect the First Amendment, and certainly the sanctity of a house of worship. It is important to note that Dr. Tiller is not and was not a criminal, did not perform criminal acts, but responded to women who

willingly came into his office with the counsel of their family and a religious leader and made a decision addressing the question of their health and the concerns of their family. Many of those women who came to Dr. Tiller wanted to have children, were praying for children, and were able to have children and give birth to a healthy child thereafter.

I am concerned that the alleged perpetrator now incarcerated and held in jail is continuing to make threats against those who are trying to both abide by the law but serve the needs of more than 51 percent of America. Yes, we know there is opposition to abortion. None of us stand here as abortion proponents. What we stand here as is simply individuals who believe in choice, prayerfully believe in choice. Therefore, I am asking for full support for this initiative to denounce the killing of Dr. Tiller, but I am also saying enough is enough.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 505 honoring the life of Dr. George Tiller and condemning his brutal murder at church. I thank Representative SLAUGHTER for this resolution.

Dr. Tiller was a husband and a father. He studied at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and served his country as a United States Navy flight surgeon intern. Despite attacks and threats against him, he continued to serve as a tireless advocate for women's health and women's rights. On May 31, he was brutally gunned down in broad daylight in his place of worship by an extremist who took the law into his own hands. Enough is enough. It is time for us to condemn this act of violence and state forcefully that we will not condone murder, threats, or intimidation in the future.

In addition to my condolences to Dr. Tiller's family, I extend my gratitude to them for his life, his courage, his unyielding support for women, their health, and freedom to exercise their constitutional rights.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 505, with deepest sympathy for the family and loved ones of Dr. George Tiller and in strongest condemnation of his murder.

Murder in any setting is horrific. It is unconscionable but to commit a heinous crime of violence inside a place of worship that teaches a message of tolerance and nonviolence is especially reprehensible. Dr. Tiller was guiding worshippers to their seats and his wife was singing in the choir when he was gunned down. This is so precisely the opposite of where humanity should be in 2009.

Violence, especially murder, should never be a recourse for differences in beliefs. So I ask my colleagues to join me in condemning acts of violence and intolerance. And I ask that we resolve to honor the memory of Dr. George Tiller, a physician and a man of God, by working harder than ever to promote tolerance and to promote nonviolence. I urge all of my colleagues to stand unanimously and vote in favor of this resolution.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution before the House sponsored by my very good friend, Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER, condemning the senseless killing of Dr. George Tiller.

Dr. Tiller, as we have heard, was gunned down while serving as an usher during church services last week. We are blessed in this country to have the freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to protest. Our country has a rich history of nonviolent protests from the women's rights movement to the civil rights movement to the gay rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached nonviolence, and his great movement heeded this call in the face of unspeakable acts of violence from their opposition.

This shooting is, in the words of the New York State Catholic Conference, a terrible perversion of what it means to be pro-life. While we may have different views of this issue, no side should resort to atrocious acts of violence such as this.

Since 1977, there have been more than 5,800 reported acts of violence against providers like Dr. Tiller. Since 1993, eight people have been murdered, and there have been 17 attempted murders since 1991. Clinics like Dr. Tiller's over a 20-year span have been bombed 41 times and faced 175 arsons and 96 attempted bombings and arsons.

I understand that this is a passionate issue for both sides, but we cannot allow this to continue.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Rochester, New York, has historically given this Nation some of our greatest women leaders: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and LOUISE SLAUGHTER. With this bill that she authored, she is one of the strongest links in leading women in this country and protecting our rights. We thank you, LOUISE, for your continued leadership.

The horror that played out inside a Wichita church, the murder of Dr. Tiller, is a wound to the conscience of this

Nation. He had long been a target of violence and hate because he provided legal abortions, he provided medical care to women in need. Any time a doctor has to put his life on the line to provide medical care it has a chilling effect on Americans' ability to get the medical care that they need.

The consequences of Dr. Tiller's murder are a tragedy not only to his family, not only for women in Kansas, but for women everywhere, especially in areas of our country where there are relatively few medical providers. Dr. Tiller is the eighth abortion provider to be murdered since 1977, and he was one of just seven doctors in the entire State of Kansas.

Where will women go for the medical help that they need? We have seen throughout history that hate is not just ugly, it can be deadly. I hope that leaders on both sides of this debate will look at the savage killing of Dr. Tiller and call to account those who would use hate, intolerance, and fear to divide us.

My heart goes out to Dr. Tiller's family and friends, and my prayers are with them.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlelady from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

□ 1300

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank my colleague Mr. NADLER for yielding.

I want to close my portion here by reminding people what a terrible thing that has happened in this country to a man who was simply doing what he was allowed to do, what he was trained to do.

I think perhaps I should state for the record, too, that third trimester abortions are less than 1 percent, and even Roe v. Wade says that after the first trimester the State has an interest and that it takes two doctors, as well as it does for the third trimester. These are oftentimes babies that have been desperately wanted and planned, but in order to save the health of the mother or to prevent her from carrying a toxic fetus that has already expired, it is sometimes necessary to do this. It is not a whim. It is not something that women do. I think, if anything, what insults my intelligence and my feeling as a woman and a grandmother is the notion that women will just wake up one morning and say, Well, I've had enough. That just does not happen. Women are, by nature, nurturers, and we are just not like that, and it's a major insult to us.

But as we remember this killing and affirm the need for peace in our places of worship, let's remind ourselves of the need for tolerance and kindness. I offer this resolution and offer the most sincere condolences to the family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NADLER of New York. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. The resolution affirms that the House of Representatives commits to the American principle that tolerance must always be superior to intolerance.

I urge Members to join me in supporting this to renounce nefarious violence in our places of worship where Americans seek sanctuary. Violence is deplorable and never an acceptable avenue for expressing opposing viewpoints.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the pro-life movement is absolutely nonviolent and is totally committed to protecting unborn children and their mothers through peaceful, nonviolent means. I have been in the pro-life movement for 37 years, and those peaceful, nonviolent means include legal and constitutional reform as well as tangibly assisting women with crisis pregnancies.

Dr. Tiller's murderer must be brought to swift justice commensurate with the heinous crime that he has committed.

Murder is murder. Murder is never justified and can never be condoned by any society committed to fundamental human rights, justice, and the rule of just law.

Let me, as well, like my other colleagues on the floor today, extend my profound condolences to the Tiller family.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) controls the balance of the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his inquiry.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Does that mean the gentleman has declined his right to a closing?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has yielded back his time.

Mr. ISSA. I'm declining on this bill. I will pick up on the next one. Thank you.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution condemns the murder of Dr. Tiller. It condemns the murder of people who are murdered in church and places of worship. It condemns the practice, and it has become a practice, of seeking to change the laws of this country, of seeking to intimidate women from availing themselves of their rights, of their constitutional right to an abor-

tion, of intimidating doctors from availing themselves of their constitutional right to perform medical procedures that are legal and that they believe are moral by threats of murder and mayhem.

I was glad to hear Mr. SMITH say that the pro-life movement is nonviolent, and I'm sure that most of it is. But, unfortunately, it is clear that there are some people, a small minority, who believe themselves part of the pro-life movement who are not nonviolent. And these people have engaged in such conduct and have murdered several providers of abortion simply for doing what they believe to be the right thing, what I believe to be the right thing, and, more importantly, what the law allows them to do, and to intimidate other people from doing this.

This resolution, which I trust every Member of this House will vote for, says that we do not believe in trying to change the law by violence. We do not believe in domestic terrorism, defining "terrorism" as an attempt to change the law through murder and violence and mayhem. We believe in constitutional processes. And if every single one of us does not believe in that, then we have no moral superiority over the terrorists that we condemn around the world.

So I trust everyone will vote for this resolution to express our horror of what was done in this instance, to express our belief that social change, if necessary, will be brought about by peaceful democratic debate and by votes, not by bullets, and that this country stands for the evolution of law by debate and by consideration and by democratic means. I urge everyone to vote for this resolution.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 505.

Like the vast majority of people throughout our nation, I was appalled by the unconscionable act of violence that took the life of Dr. Tiller at his place of worship.

I offer my deepest and most sincere condolences to the family and many friends of Dr. Tiller. My thoughts and prayers are with them as they struggle with this tremendous loss.

Dr. Tiller was a medical pioneer who, for two decades, worked to provide the highest quality of care to his patients.

Despite encountering constant harassment and threats Dr. Tiller remained committed to providing abortion services and other reproductive care to women and their families.

Often times, Dr. Tiller provided these services to women during the most challenging and heart-wrenching of circumstances.

The shooting death of Dr. Tiller is an affront to all physicians who provide abortion and reproductive care to women; it's also an affront to a woman's right to choose.

Moreover his death was an affront to our nation's rich religious and democratic traditions.

No matter which side you may stand on in regards to protecting a woman's right to choose, we can and should all agree that violence has no place in our political discourse.

I thank my colleague Ms. SLAUGHTER for authoring this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of its passage.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 505, condemning the murder of Dr. George Tiller.

Dr. George Tiller was murdered in Wichita, Kansas, on May 31, 2009. Dr. Tiller was 67 years old, a father, a husband and a friend, and was killed in his place of worship, a place intended for peace and refuge that in a moment became a place for violence and murder.

As stated in H. Res. 505, in the past 10 years, 38 people in the United States have been killed in their place of worship with 30 more sustaining wounds in those same incidents. This violence is deplorable, and never an acceptable avenue for expressing opposing viewpoints.

I join the author of this bill, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, in offering my condolences to Dr. Tiller's family, and commit to the American principle that tolerance must always be superior to intolerance, and that violence is never an appropriate response to a difference in beliefs.

It's nearly impossible to find comfort after such a senseless and horrific act, and I extend my deepest condolences to the Tiller family and all those families whose lives he touched. Like many others, Dr. Tiller persevered through decades of threats and attacks, and I condemn anyone who takes action or makes statements to incite violence as an acceptable response.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 505, which condemns the tragic murder of Dr. George R. Tiller of Wichita, Kansas. I would like to thank the author of the bill, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER and Judiciary Chairman JOHN CONYERS for their expeditious work in bringing this bill to the floor.

We mourn the loss of Dr. Tiller, a husband, father of four, and grandfather of ten. We also mourn the loss of a man who was a friend to women and young girls around the world, who he saw through their most desperate hours of need.

Dr. Tiller, born and raised in Wichita, was the son of a physician. In medical school, Dr. Tiller planned to become a dermatologist. After his father, mother, sister, and brother-in-law died in a 1970 plane crash, he returned to Kansas to close his father's family practice. His father's patients pleaded with him to return and take over the practice. Eventually, his clinic evolved from general family practice to focusing on reproductive services.

Acts of terror and intimidation were an all too common occurrence at his clinic. In 1986, Dr. Tiller's clinic, the Women's Health Care Services, was bombed. In 1991, it was blockaded for six weeks. In 1993, Dr. Tiller was shot in both arms while trying to enter the clinic. In May 2009, vandals cut wires to security cameras and made holes in the clinic roof.

Dr. Tiller was murdered on Sunday, May 31, 2009. He was shot in his place of worship, the Reformation Lutheran Church. Dr. Tiller served as an usher and his wife, Jeanne, sang in the choir.

I would like to insert into the RECORD an article by Judith Warner that was published in her New York Times blog. One of Dr. Tiller's cases mentioned by Ms. Warner, that involving a 9 year-old girl who had been raped by her father, is particularly haunting.

This child was 18 weeks pregnant and her small body just would not be able to physically bear the burden of labor and delivery. There

was no doctor or hospital in her rural, Southern town that would provide her with an abortion. She was referred to Dr. Tiller, the doctor of last resort. Dr. Tiller took her case for free. He kept her under his personal care for three days. The young girl and her sister stated that even in this difficult and heart-wrenching situation, he could not have been more wonderful in his care.

On Saturday, memorial services were held for Dr. Tiller. His family and friends remembered him for his generosity and his sense of humor. Let us also remember him for his courage.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

[From the New York Times, June 4, 2009]

DR. TILLER'S IMPORTANT JOB

(By Judith Warner)

The 9-year-old girl had been raped by her father. She was 18 weeks pregnant. Carrying the baby to term, going through labor and delivery, would have ripped her small body apart.

There was no doctor in her rural Southern town to provide her with an abortion. No area hospital would even consider taking her case.

Susan Hill, the president of the National Women's Health Foundation, which operates reproductive health clinics in areas where abortion services are scarce or nonexistent, called Dr. George Tiller, the Wichita, Kan., ob-gyn who last Sunday was shot to death by an abortion foe in the entry foyer of his church.

She begged.

"I only asked him for a favor when it was a really desperate story, not a semi-desperate story," she told me this week. Tiller was known to abortion providers—and opponents—as the "doctor of last resort"—the one who took the patients no one else would touch.

"He took her for free," she said. "He kept her three days. He checked her himself every few hours. She and her sister came back to me and said he couldn't have been more wonderful. That's just the way he was."

Other patients of Dr. Tiller's shared their stories this week on a special "Kansas Stories" page hosted by the Web site "A Heart-breaking Choice."

One New York mother wrote of having been referred by an obstetrician to Tiller after learning, in her 27th week of pregnancy, that her soon-to-be son was "so very sick" that, once born, he'd have nothing more than "a brief life of respirators, dialysis, surgeries and pain." In-state doctors refused to perform an abortion.

"The day I drove up to the clinic in Wichita, Kansas, to undergo the procedure that would end the life of my precious son, I also walked into the nightmare of abortion politics. In this world, reality rarely gets through the rhetoric," wrote another mother, from Texas, of the shouts, graphic posters and protesters' video camera that greeted her when she came to see Tiller.

Our understanding of what late abortion is like has been almost entirely shaped in public discourse by the opponents of abortion rights. In recent years, discussions of the issue have been filled with the gory details of so-called partial-birth abortion; the grim miseries that drive some women and girls to end their pregnancies after the first trimester have somehow been elided.

"Late abortion is not a failure of contraception. It's for medical reasons," Eleanor Smeal, the president of the Feminist Majority Foundation, who has worked to defend abortion providers like Tiller against harassment and violence since the mid-1980s, told me this week. "We've made pregnancy a

fairy tale where there are no fetal complications, there's no cancer, no terrible abuse of girls, no cases where to make a girl go all the way through a pregnancy is to destroy her. These are the realities of the story. That's what Dr. Tiller worked with—the realities."

There was a great deal of emotion in the air this week as the reality of Tiller's death set in. Much of it was mournful, some was celebratory, some was cynical and self-serving.

There were the requisite expressions of disapproval and disavowal by politicians from both sides of the abortion divide. And yet it seemed to me that even from pro-choice politicians, the response was muted. In death, as in life, no one wanted to embrace this man who had specialized in helping women who learned late in their pregnancies that their fetuses had gross abnormalities.

It seemed that no one wanted to be too closely associated with the muck and mire of what Tiller had to do in carrying out the risky and emotionally traumatic second- and third-trimester abortions that other doctors and hospitals refused to do. In news reports, there was a tendency to frame the "abortion doctor's" murder almost as a kind of combat death: a natural occupational hazard.

Yet Tiller—who went to work in a bulletproof vest, lived in a gated community and drove a bulletproof car—was a doctor, not a soldier. And it is precisely this kind of thinking—this viewing of his life and work through the lens of our most gruesome cultural warfare, this slippage and mixing up of medicine and politics—that left him largely unprotected at the time of his death.

Someone resembling Scott Roeder, the man charged in Dr. Tiller's murder, was seen on Saturday trying to pour glue into the lock on the back door of a Kansas City clinic. Before that, abortion providers around the country had been telling local law enforcement and the United States Justice Department that harassment at their clinics was on the rise, and they were scared. The Feminist Majority Foundation had been hearing all spring that the atmosphere outside clinics was heating up in the wake of the new pro-choice president's election. "We all lived through Clinton, the shootings in '93 and '94. We were concerned some of the extremists said they had to take the fight 'back to the streets,'" Smeal said.

There are legal protections in place that ought to keep abortion providers like Tiller safe. The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, passed by Congress after the 1993 murder of Dr. David Gunn outside his Pensacola, Fla., women's health clinic and the attempted murder of Tiller that same year, prohibits property damage, acts or threats of force, and interference with and intimidation of anyone entering a reproductive health care facility.

When the federal law is backed by complementary state laws, and when local law enforcement officers apply those laws assiduously, serious violence greatly declines. When the law's not applied strenuously, when vandalism goes uninvestigated, when protesters are allowed to photograph or videotape patients arriving at women's health clinics, when death threats aren't followed up, more serious acts of physical violence follow. In fact, when intimidation occurs at a clinic, the reported rate of violence triples, the Feminist Majority Federation's 2008 National Clinic Violence Survey found.

"We really do need to arrest people who are trespassing. Arrest people who are gluing locks. Committing more minor violations of the law so criminal activity doesn't escalate, so these criminals don't feel emboldened," said Vicki Saporta, the president of the National Abortion Federation. "In places where

the laws are enforced, you don't see violence escalate. Protesters generally go someplace where there's a more hospitable climate," she told me. But, she added, in a lot of communities, law enforcement views clinic violence as a political problem. "They don't view it for what it is: criminal activity outside of a commercial establishment," she said. "Law enforcement can't treat this as a political issue. It's a criminal issue."

We as a nation cannot continue to provide a hospitable environment for the likes of Roeder because the thought of what happens to fetuses in late abortions turns our stomachs. We have to accept that sometimes terrible things happen to young girls. We have to face the fact that sometimes desired pregnancies go tragically wrong. We have to weigh our repugnance for late abortion against the consequences for women and girls of being denied life-saving medical treatment.

Only a tiny handful of doctors in this country will, like Dr. Tiller, provide abortion services for girls or women who are advanced in their pregnancies. These doctors aren't well known to patients or even to other doctors, but they're closely monitored by anti-abortion groups, who know where they work, where they live and where they worship. Roeder may have been a lone gunman, but in the largest possible sense, he did not act alone. The location of Tiller's gated community was prominently featured on an easily-accessed Web site, along with a map of the streets surrounding his house. It was really only a matter of time before someone was unbalanced enough to take the bait.

Most Americans, I'm sure, do not believe that a 9-year-old should be forced to bear a child, or that a woman should have no choice but to risk her life to carry a pregnancy to term.

By averting our eyes from the ugliness and tragedy that accompany some pregnancies, we have allowed anti-abortion activists to define the dilemma of late abortion. We have allowed them to isolate and vilify doctors like Tiller.

We can no longer be complicit—through our muted disapproval or our complacency—in domestic terror.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as millions of Americans are now aware, Dr. George Tiller was assassinated in his church on Sunday, May 31st, 2009 because of his political beliefs and profession. Dr. Tiller provided legal abortions, and his dedication to his profession, to the health and well-being of the women he cared for, cost him his life. I join President Obama, members of Congress, and millions of Americans in professing horror, shock, and sadness over this blatant act of terror. I hope that all Americans—regardless of their personal stances on the issue of abortion—will join in opposing those who would seek to control the actions of women and doctors through the use of violent intimidation.

Abortion doctors and women's clinics across this country which provide a range of women's health services including abortion face threats and violent acts every day. I sincerely hope that in the wake of this terrible event, the Department of Justice and law enforcement agencies across this country take future threats directed toward women's health providers seriously. Justice and the rule of law demand nothing less.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 505, condemning the murder of Dr. George Tiller.

On May 31, 2009, Dr. Tiller was gunned down while handing out church flyers to the congregation of the Reformation Lutheran

Church in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Tiller was murdered because he had provided comprehensive legal reproductive healthcare to women and their families.

For 20 years, Dr. Tiller lived under a constant threat of violence. His clinic was bombed in 1986 and he was shot in both arms in 1993. He received constant death threats. Despite feeling the need to wear body armor and travel with a guard dog, he continued to provide reproductive services to women, often in the most difficult and heartbreaking circumstances. Dr. Tiller once said that he provided these services because "Women and families are intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, and ethically competent to struggle with complex health issues—including abortion," he said, "and come to decisions that are appropriate for themselves." I could not agree more. Women must have the right to make their own reproductive choices.

Regardless of one's personal feelings about abortion, we all must stand vigilant against such abhorrent and vile acts of violence. To murder someone because of disagreement with his belief system is morally, ethically, and legally wrong. It is especially disturbing that this murder took place in a church. Assaulting, intimidating, and harassing doctors and clinic employees should not be tolerated.

Dr. Tiller's death is only one act of violence against those that perform abortion services. Pro-life extremists have engaged in more than 5,800 reported acts of violence against abortion providers since 1977, including bombings, arsons, death threats, kidnappings, and assaults, as well as more than 143,000 reported acts of disruption, including bomb threats and harassing calls. Eight abortion providers have been murdered in the United States, and another 17 have been the victims of attempted murder. It is past time that we condemn the violence and intimidation against clinics that provide legal services to women in need.

I hope and pray that the friends and family members of Dr. Tiller find solace and comfort as we deal together with this historic and heartbreaking episode.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 505, which condemns the tragic murder of Dr. George Tiller. The murder of Dr. Tiller is a form of domestic terrorism that we cannot tolerate in our country.

I firmly agree with President Obama that we can maintain our beliefs while agreeing to disagree. Dr. Tiller's medical practice in Kansas was operating legally, and we must abide by the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I have personal knowledge of the work of Dr. Tiller. In 2000, my Subcommittee Staff Director, Jason Steinbaum, and his wife, Miriam, were expecting a child. This was their first baby, and they were very excited about becoming new parents.

Through visit after visit to their doctor, they learned the pregnancy was proceeding well and all seemed normal. The sonograms were all as they should have been, until calamity struck. At 28 weeks the doctors discovered a horrible brain deformity. They said the baby would die in utero or shortly after birth.

I recall that Jason and Miriam went from doctor to doctor and hospital to hospital to try to find a way to save their baby boy, but all told them that there was no chance that he would live. At that point, after consulting with their clergy, their doctors, and their families, they decided to terminate the pregnancy to put an end to this tragedy in their lives.

At 28 weeks, however, extremely few physicians in the country would provide the medical care they needed. Dr. Tiller was recommended to them as the best physician to help them.

I recall that I could not believe they had to fly to Wichita, Kansas to get the medical care they required. As a member of Congress from New York, I have become accustomed to receiving the best health care in New York City and could not imagine that they would have to travel half way across the country because no such clinic existed nearby. Nevertheless, when they determined that there was no other place to which they could turn, Jason, Miriam, and their mothers flew to Kansas to Women's Health Care Services of Wichita and Dr. Tiller.

Jason has told me that the care they received at Dr. Tiller's clinic was extraordinary and that the people at the clinic treated them as well as they could imagine. The procedure was safe and humane, and at the end, they held their baby boy for a moment and said goodbye. Today, the baby is buried not far from their home in north Virginia.

So, as the House votes on this solemn resolution, I ask that my colleagues reflect for a moment on the fact that Dr. Tiller helped someone right here in our congressional community and that his murderer took someone who was there for one of us in a time of need. This is a terribly sad day, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 505.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 505.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WITNESS SECURITY AND PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM ACT OF 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1741) to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to eligible State, tribal, and local prosecutors to establish and maintain certain protection and witness assistance programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1741

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF WITNESS PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall make competitive grants to eligible State, tribal,

and local governments to establish or maintain programs that provide protection or assistance to witnesses in court proceedings involving homicide, or involving a serious violent felony or serious drug offense as defined in section 3559(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code. The Attorney General shall ensure that, to the extent reasonable and practical, such grants are made to achieve an equitable geographical distribution of such programs throughout the United States.

(b) STATE DEFINED.—For purposes of this Act, the term "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SEC. 3. USE OF GRANTS.

A grant made under section 2 may be used only to pay all or part of the cost of the program for which such grant is made.

SEC. 4. PRIORITY.

In making grants under section 2, the Attorney General shall give priority to applications submitted under section 5 involving programs in States with an average of not less than 100 murders per year during the most recent 5-year period, as calculated using the latest available crime statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION.

To be eligible for a grant under section 2, a State, tribal, or local government shall submit to the Office of Justice Programs an application in such form and manner, at such time, and accompanied by such information as the Attorney General specifies.

SEC. 6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

From amounts made available to carry out this Act, the Attorney General, upon request of a recipient of a grant under section 2, shall provide technical assistance to such recipient to the extent the Attorney General determines such technical assistance is needed to establish or maintain a program described in such section.

SEC. 7. BEST PRACTICES.

(a) REPORT.—Each recipient of a grant under section 2 shall submit to the Attorney General a report, in such form and manner and containing such information as specified by the Attorney General, that evaluates each program established or maintained pursuant to such grant, including policies and procedures under the program.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.—Based on the reports submitted under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall develop best practice models to assist States and other relevant entities in addressing—

- (1) witness safety;*
- (2) short-term and permanent witness relocation;*
- (3) financial and housing assistance; and*
- (4) any other services related to witness protection or assistance that are determined by the Attorney General to be necessary.*

(c) DISSEMINATION TO STATES.—Not later than 1 year after the development of best practice models under subsection (b), the Attorney General shall disseminate to States and other relevant entities such models.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that States and other relevant entities should use the best practice models developed and disseminated in accordance with this Act to evaluate, improve, and develop witness protection or witness assistance as appropriate.

(e) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this Act requires the dissemination of any information if the Attorney General determines such information is law enforcement sensitive and should only be disclosed within the law enforcement community or that such information poses a threat to national security.

SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than December 31, 2015, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress on the