

I wouldn't want them buried—any part of them—in the landfill.”

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. In this month of March, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I would like to take a moment to recognize some of our great female leaders who, throughout history, have persevered in the face of monumental opposition and successfully have accomplished great things on behalf of the American people.

From the words of the great poet, Maya Angelou, from the beautiful singing voice of Marian Anderson, from the tireless activism of Dolores Huerta, to the groundbreaking leadership of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and, of course, our own Democratic leader NANCY PELOSI, these women and many more have played an integral role in the history in this Nation.

Madam Speaker, every day, women take great strides to help others and to improve the quality of life for everyone. Unfortunately, in matters involving health care, women are still facing these challenges. Whether it's on the Senate floor last week during a debate on the Blunt amendment or whether it's during a House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, women continue to face unwarranted attacks on their reproductive health rights and their access to contraceptives.

More disconcerting, these debates and veiled attacks have escalated beyond misguided attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Now they've taken aim at restricting women's choices in the area of reproductive health altogether. This is wrong. Medical decisions about a woman's health must leave the political arena and be left to the discretion of the patient and their doctor, not employers, and certainly not the government.

It is astonishing and disappointing that more than 50 years after the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, a decision which found that women have a constitutional right to use contraceptives, continued attacks on women's rights of privacy and health care still persist, and at an alarming rate.

The American people want us to work towards addressing their top priority: creating jobs, not their reproductive rights. However, this Congress seems to be more focused on bringing forward legislation that targets women's access to basic health care. In this Congress alone, we've taken eight votes on antiwomen health legislation.

A 2011 Guttmacher Institute study found that over 90 percent of women, and over 90 percent of Catholic women, between the ages of 15 and 44 have used

some sort of birth control at some point during their lives. Birth control can cost up to \$600 a year. So for a college student, a woman who's had multiple children and is still in childbearing years, low-income women or those who are underinsured, insurance coverage means the difference between accessing contraceptive services or not.

□ 1040

Quite simply, Madam Speaker, all women should have the choice and access to contraception and have the resources no matter where they work, where they live, or where they go to college. This is why I'm proud to support President Obama's Affordable Care Act, which I voted on, which will make a positive impact on women and children in their access to health care and greatly decrease the number of women and their families who are uninsured or underinsured.

Studies have shown that women who have health insurance don't always receive the medical care they need because their policies don't cover certain services or the women simply can't afford the high deductibles and copayments. The Affordable Care Act changes this unfortunate reality by assisting women in gaining access to basic preventive health care in order to prevent life-threatening diseases in the future.

Our country is facing great challenges. People need jobs. Students need affordable education. Seniors and working families need affordable health care. But one thing we don't need is to continue to waste time debating extreme legislation that is dangerous to women's health, disrespects the judgment of American women, and is nothing less than the most comprehensive and radical assault on women's health in our lifetime.

Madam Speaker, as people all over America pay tribute during the month of March to the generations of women who have committed to progress and have proved invaluable assets to our society, let us in Congress renew our commitment to support women—not with certificates at banquets, but by working to ensure equal treatment of all women in society, providing women with equal access to health care, and protecting women's rights, and their families, to choose once and for all their own health care.

HOOSIERS MAKE INDIANA PROUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I've never been prouder to call southern Indiana home. Late Friday afternoon, in our part of America, a disaster brought neighbors together, turned strangers into friends, and reminded us all what it means to be part of a community.

Over the course of several hours, fierce winds, softball-sized hail, and

deadly tornados descended upon southern Indiana communities, leaving behind a 50-mile path of destruction from New Pekin to Chelsea and beyond. Our people are still assessing the costs, but we know this much: 13 Hoosiers have died, scores have lost their homes and businesses, and citizens across the region have suffered untold damage to their personal and public property.

As hard as it is to imagine, the tragedy might have been worse were it not for the bravery and resilience of rank-and-file Hoosiers. Our firemen, policemen, EMTs, and local officials deserve our thanks. Those who serve in Indiana's National Guard, our State police, and our Department of Homeland Security stepped up, too. From the initial response through the ongoing efforts today, their service has been exemplary.

But it has been concerned citizens, so-called "ordinary" Americans who have restored a measure of stability to a region pummeled by forces beyond our control. There was a bus driver in Henryville who, in the nick of time, rushed dozens of children back to school to protect them from the approaching twister. There were the EMTs off Interstate 65 who saw a woman thrown from her car and saved her from being pummeled by hail by dragging a large metal sign across the road and holding it over her. They likely saved her life.

There were parents and friends and even strangers across southern Indiana who, as danger approached, took a moment to extend a hand to others and said, Come inside, we'll find room. After the storms left their mark, Hoosiers immediately turned to accounting for loved ones and comforting neighbors.

The damage was and is severe. One tornado—by some accounts a half-mile wide—carved a clear path through southern Indiana, ripping trees out of the Earth, hurling automobiles and combines long distances, severing power lines, and decimating countless homes and businesses. Here, again, Hoosiers didn't sit around and wait for others to help us out. We got to work.

Now, over the weekend I spent time surveying the damage and meeting with those who lost the most. Everywhere I visited, I met citizens wearing work boots and work gloves who were busily beginning to sort through the piles of rubble. I met others who had fired up their chainsaws and were clearing debris from roadways. I saw clusters of cars and pickup trucks parked outside homes that were hit hardest.

In the aftermath of such a tragedy, one would be forgiven for asking: Why me? But I never heard it. Instead, time and again I heard Hoosiers sympathize with those who lost more than they. And more than one person told me that, in the end, stuff doesn't really matter; it's people that are important.

I heard sincere, caring people ask their neighbors: How can I help? In

Henryville, a pizza shop was mostly destroyed, except for the freezer. The couple who owned it, rather than worrying about the loss of their business, asked officials how they could donate food from the freezer to those who needed it most.

In Marysville, the local Christian church remains intact, but little else. Pastor Bob Priest told me their decades-old building is no longer structurally sound, but the congregation has never been stronger.

For those of us who have seen the scale and scope of destruction up close, we know the path back will not be easy, but we will fix all that Mother Nature broke. Government at all levels will and must be there to help, from local authorities, to the State of Indiana, to our congressional offices. My staff and I, in particular, are eager to connect our constituents to whatever Federal services and funds might be available to help them get their lives back on track. But make no mistake, it will be the people of Indiana, the people of tight-knit communities like Henryville, Marysville, Chelsea, and New Pekin, who will rebuild their broken lives.

Now, during these tough times, Hoosiers are reminding us what it means to be a community of citizens—one Nation under God, indivisible, come what may. That sense of community has always bound Americans together in tough times, and it will get us through this tragedy as well.

May God be with those Americans who are putting their lives back together. We're praying for you and here for you.

VOTE "NO" ON AMERICAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, last month, the House Republican leadership commemorated Valentine's Day by planning a shotgun wedding between transportation reauthorization and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; between highway funding and Federal pension cuts. Many Members of this House spoke for and against this troubling bill, but I think it's time Congress started listening to the people.

Consider what my constituents wrote me when they asked me to oppose this transportation disinvestment plan. One concerned citizen in Vienna said:

I'm writing to urge you not to support the proposed American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act. This bill is anti-jobs, anti-business, anti-transit, and anti-environment. It slashes funding for transit, guts our Nation's environmental laws, and green-lights a set of controversial and damaging new drilling projects, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The director of a nonprofit in Dumfries, Virginia, worried about the utter lack of transit support in the proposed legislation, wrote:

I can tell you from firsthand experience that this proposal would have a profoundly negative impact on the ability of our clients to go about their daily lives. Many clients use public transportation to access our services, seek and hold employment, and remain independent. This legislation puts jobs and the services this agency provides to vulnerable populations at risk.

A constituent from Prince William County bemoaned the dearth of transit investments and commented:

For nearly 30 years, beginning with President Reagan, a portion of Federal motor fuels tax revenues has been dedicated to public transportation investment under Federal law. These revenues are a dependable and predictable source of funding and should remain dedicated to public transportation. The House Ways and Means plan would eliminate this reliable funding source and provides no funding for public transportation after 2016.

A senior citizen from Springfield, Virginia, worried about the impact of this legislation on alternative transportation options, said:

I strongly encourage you to vote "no" on H.R. 7. I am 65 years old and have spent the last 10 years of my life utilizing the paths and trails around Fairfax County and this area of the country for safe biking and exercising. Their existence has been critical to my efforts to improve my personal health. These trails cost so little compared to building highways and using automobiles and have tremendous benefits to all of us. Please do not allow this bill to halt the great progress that this country has made in its trails. Please vote "no" on H.R. 7.

□ 1050

A constituent from Gainesville, Prince William County, Virginia, where they have one of the longest daily commutes in America:

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to pay for any of H.R. 7 through cuts to Federal workers' pay and benefits. I urge you to vote against any plan that unfairly targets Federal workers and retirees to pay more for their fair share. Our nation's Federal workers are already doing their part to address America's deficit problem, which they did not cause. Their pay freeze will have contributed over \$60 billion to debt reduction.

A constituent from Fairfax echoed those concerns:

Congressman Connolly, I am contacting you about H.R. 7. I'm disgusted and appalled that those in public service are being targeted yet again to fix Federal budget shortfalls they didn't cause. As a Federal employee, I'm acutely aware of the shared sacrifices Federal employees have made in these turbulent times. I appreciate your support and representation in defeating this bill.

Madam Speaker, my constituents make a compelling case. Americans are looking for a long-term solution to transportation. Like any successful relationship, this one must be balanced, with sustained investment in highways, transit, and non-motorized transportation. We can't slash funding in 45 of the 50 States, including my home State of Virginia, while eliminating all dedicated funding for transit and hope to solve our transportation problems.

I urge my Republican colleagues, junk this bill. Let's start over again and work in a bipartisan fashion for

transportation in America for the benefit of all of our citizens.

REMOVE THE FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION DESIGNATION FROM THE MEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, for nearly a decade the United States has invested money, sweat, blood and tears, all in the name of a free and democratic Iraq.

Before the war, Iraqis suffered from the oppressive dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, and recent events have led me to believe that perhaps the new government does not value freedom any more than the last one did.

As a Member of Congress, I've been fortunate to go to Iraq several times to visit with our troops. And during my last visit with a bipartisan congressional delegation, we also met with Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki. During the 2-hour-long discussion covering many things, I asked one question: "Can we go see Camp Ashraf?"

Now, Madam Speaker, Camp Ashraf houses Iranian dissidents who are called the MEK, and I represent a good number of Iranian Americans who have family members in this camp. They are particularly worried at this point in time, since Iraqi forces had recently killed 36 residents at the camp just a few weeks before. Here are the pictures of those real people that were killed by the Iraqi forces that came into the camp.

Here is an example. You notice this is an American-made HUMVEE coming into the camp. And over here on this far picture, you see an Iranian dissident being run over by one of those HUMVEES driven by an Iraqi soldier.

So that is why the question was asked: can we go see the camp and see these Iranian dissidents? And of course, Maliki said, "no way that's going to happen." It left me wondering why he would refuse to let us see and talk to these people and get the other side of this invasion by the Iraqi soldiers. So we didn't get to go. And later I learned that one reason we were actually told to leave the country is because we asked to go see this camp and what happened to these 36 Iranian dissidents.

And now we have Camp Liberty. Camp Liberty, Madam Speaker, is the result of the fact that in Camp Ashraf, the Iraqi government is moving these dissidents to another camp called Camp Liberty. These dissidents are commonly referred to as the MEK, and Camp Liberty, ironically, should be symbolic of a name of freedom, but it's anything but that.

Now the Iraqi government, having moved these dissidents from Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty, is still oppressing these Iranian dissidents. The reality is Camp Liberty is worse than Camp Ashraf.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said it best: "This isn't a jail, it's a concentration camp."