

this subject today. I'm a woman who's been privileged to give birth to 5 children, and I've also taken 23 children into my home as foster children. It's very hard for me to imagine, Mr. Speaker, that a doctor in this country, a doctor who took an oath to do no harm, would, in fact, kill a woman at his abortion clinic and he would sever the heads of four babies that were born alive—and potentially others—and commit one gruesome act after another.

Shamelessly, the mainstream media has all but gone silent and failed to cover this horrific violence against women.

No one, Democrat or Republican, believes in violence against women. We abhor it. But there's nothing that even comes close to what's happened in this abortion clinic in Pennsylvania. The officials in Pennsylvania and the State Department of Health, unfortunately—it appears, willfully—ignored this heinous crime. It also appears that this has been ignored now across our Nation.

Well, we won't ignore it. And I thank God for the men who stood up here today to stand for women and against violence against women. I lend my voice and my support to that effort as well.

VA CLAIMS, OPERATIONS, AND RECORDS EFFICIENCY ACT

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced a bipartisan piece of legislation to help tackle the substantial backlog of veterans' claims. My bill is called the VA Claims, Operations, and Records Efficiency Act, or CORE. It directs the Department of Defense to enact an efficient electronic transfer of veterans' records instead of the outdated paperwork process that is currently being used.

The average veteran waits more than 250 days for a decision on a claim. About 175 days of that time is the VA waiting for the DOD to send the complete records. In Arizona's District One, one of my veterans' caseworkers is helping several vets who waited more than 2 years. This wait time is simply unacceptable. Federal agencies must leave paperwork in the past and adopt an efficient electronic approach.

I thank my colleague, Chairman COFFMAN, for cosponsoring this bill. Helping our veterans isn't a partisan issue; it's a national responsibility. Let's end the backlog so we can keep the promises we've made to our veterans.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

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

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. I am glad our country is having a conversation about gun violence. It's about the children, we say. I am glad our country is discussing immigration reform. It's about the children, we say. I am glad we are finally having a conversation about our trillion-dollar deficit. It's about the children, we say. Every day, this Chamber debates and votes on legislation, all in the name of the children, we say.

Well, Baby A was a child. He had 10 fingers and 10 toes and he moved. He moved before those scissors were jabbed in the back of his head and he moved in reaction to the pain he felt.

Baby B had 10 fingers and 10 toes. He kicked in his mother's womb. His mother was a child herself—scared, frightened, looking for an adult to help her.

Dr. Gosnell, his staff, the health department, and even national pro-choice organizations were in no way concerned with these women, their health or well-being. Instead, these entities either turned a blind eye or they were more devoted to a political ideology rather than the sounds of babies drowning in toilets.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

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

Mr. LANKFORD. In Philadelphia, an abortion clinic murder trial is about to go to the jury next week for the death of four children and one adult. The one adult was killed by an overdose of drugs that she was given during the abortion procedure. The four children represent many children that were delivered completely, and then their spinal cord was cut while they were outside the womb.

The defense has said those children would have died anyway. They were small. The drugs they had been given would have killed them already in the surgical destruction that happened during the actual abortion procedure. So those children don't matter. They shouldn't count as a murder. They wouldn't have lived anyway.

I'm going to ask two questions. One is: What is the difference of 3 feet between delivering a child and snapping their spinal cord or killing them in the womb? And the second is: Why would we do this to children in the first place?

I'd love for you to meet Olivia. She goes to high school with my daughter. She was born in 1996 at 1 pound, 2 ounces, just over 20 weeks at delivery, the very same as these children that were killed that day and many days in that Philadelphia abortion clinic.

We have got to stand for life. We cannot be a Nation that does this to our children.

□ 1500

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise awareness about the trial that's going on in Philadelphia.

Dr. Kermit Gosnell is on trial right now for the murder of at least four babies who were born alive as a result of a botched abortion, as well as a mother who was murdered during the process of an abortion at the hands of Dr. Gosnell.

Now, just a few days ago, more than 70 Members of Congress sent a letter to the heads of the three major networks asking why they're not giving fair coverage to this trial. I think we all recognize if Dr. Gosnell used an AK-47 instead of a scalpel, the media coverage would rival a natural disaster. Yet barely a peep comes from the mainstream media because it happened to be an abortion doctor who was actually performing abortions.

This is one of those untold stories in our country that we all need to stand up for, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're here today. We're going to continue to stand up for the lives of the unborn and for their rights.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues to express my disgust and anger at the barbaric actions of Dr. Kermit Gosnell.

The facts of this case are gut-wrenching. As a father, a Catholic, and a health care provider, I believe in protecting the unborn.

This case isn't only about upholding the sanctity of life, but it is also about patient care and safety. Further, it shows many in the mainstream media will turn a blind eye to the murder of infants if it suits their political agenda.

Regardless of one's abortion position, no one can defend Gosnell's practices, yet his criminal case proceeds without the national outcry for justice that we have heard on other murder cases. Do we value the lives of infants or the health care of mothers who endured such horrific medical care?

The lack of oversight allowing Dr. Gosnell to operate under horrific conditions, perform late-term abortions and murder babies should be scrutinized in the same manner as other serial killers. My hope is our actions today shed light on this case and start a conversation to be sure that this never happens again.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to ask why the media has not reported on this atrocity that's been going on related to Dr. Gosnell. I rise as a Member of Congress, but also a minister.

I read an article just recently on this very issue that really brought to my attention what the problem is, why the media won't report. The article, talking about Dr. Gosnell, said:

He regularly and illegally delivered live, viable babies in the third trimester of pregnancy—and then murdered these newborns by severing their spinal cords with scissors.

He overdosed his patients with dangerous drugs, spread venereal disease among them with infected instruments, perforated their wombs and bowels—and, on at least two occasions, caused their deaths.

Over the years, many people came to know that something was going on here. But then, Mr. Speaker, it ends by saying, "But no one put a stop to it."

Until we stand as citizens of the United States, until ministers in the pulpit stand and speak for life itself, God-given, until we return to our foundational principles, the media, our Presidents, no one else will listen to the cries of these innocents. Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to stand in their defense.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to express my horror at the accusations made in the trial of Kermit Gosnell, an abortionist in Pennsylvania. If these charges are true, they're horrific.

Let me speak from my heart. I am an OB/GYN physician who has delivered almost 5,000 babies. In my heart of hearts, I cannot imagine what must have gone on in the guise of health care in that abortionist clinic. It is physically nauseating for me to think about what this doctor did.

Life is a precious miracle, and the children who lost their lives in Philadelphia were blessed with this miracle only to have it so cruelly ripped away from them. Regardless of whether one is pro-life or pro-abortion, we should all agree that these children deserved a chance at life.

This country carries a responsibility and duty to protect those who do not have a voice, including the unborn children of America that represent our greatest silent minority. They're the most innocent among us and deserve the protections we afford to all other people in this great country.

One of government's most important duties is to protect the most vulnerable among us. I pledge to continue to remember and to strive toward this.

If found guilty, I expect the full weight of the law to be used to punish the accused.

I simply will finish by saying, as a reminder to all of us, what a precious gift of life our children are.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I stand here again today to speak for the underprivileged women and children who suffered under the horrible acts of Dr. Gosnell. And again, as a father of two little girls, just like President Obama, I challenge President Obama to lead in this unspeakable case. It's time for the President to finally acknowledge these acts.

Mr. President, your silence on this issue is deafening. It's deafening, isn't it? When will you stand up and say that we must protect these women and children and ensure their safety? These acts are reprehensible and require your leadership without delay.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

FAA FLIGHT DELAYS

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

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. I rise to speak about an entirely different topic today. And my topic pales in comparison to the death of children at the hands of this awful clinic, so please excuse me for the diversion.

What I rise to speak about today is the sequester and the effects on the Federal Aviation Administration. You see, in my State of South Carolina, our budget is actually less than it was 5 years ago. Whereas, in the last 5 years, the Federal budget has risen by 29 percent. In a time when hardworking Americans are tightening their belts, when State and local governments are tightening their belts, the Federal budget is up 29 percent. We run record deficit after record deficit. Yet with sequester, we're seeking a 2.4 percent cut—after a 29 percent rise in the last 5 years, 2.4 percent.

My State has cut its budget with minimal disruption because the Governor and the legislature have worked together to do exactly that, minimize disruption. This administration, on the other hand, is making every effort to make this 2.4 percent cut as painful as they possibly can.

FAA FLIGHT DELAYS

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Having served in the city of Indianapolis city government, as well as working for the Federal Government as a United States Attorney and serving my citizens, that's what I thought Federal Government, city governments, and local governments were supposed to do—and

State governments. And I've worked at a State higher ed institution. That's what public institutions are supposed to do. They are supposed to serve, and they are supposed to serve citizens.

Many of us travel by air frequently, and we're grateful with the relative ease which air travel allows us to visit, whether it's distant loved ones or travel to conduct business.

Government is vitally important in the service to citizens in air travel. But once again, the Federal Aviation Administration is finding it more important to play politics with air travel and air service than to serve the citizens, which is what government is supposed to do.

The FAA has decided to implement President Obama's sequester by furloughing employees, like their air traffic controllers—vitally important to the service and safety of our country—and causing delays in up to 40 percent of U.S. flights.

This isn't the only way the FAA could save money. There are many other ways the FAA could save money, and they were provided the flexibility to save that money. But instead, in 2010 alone, the FAA spent \$8 million on employee conferences. There are many ways they are not serving us.

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FAA FLIGHT DELAYS

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, FAA furloughs of air traffic controllers and threats to delay flights represent an absolutely colossal failure of this administration. The FAA and the Obama administration knew about sequestration. In fact, the FAA knows, and this chart shows that, in fact, air traffic is down some 27 percent in the last decade.

FAA failed to make reductions where air traffic has actually been reduced. The FAA knows which airports they can reduce their workforce. We've got a report here that outlines in detail where we have more air traffic controllers than we need.

The Obama administration is poking Congress and the American people, the flying public, in the eye. There's no reason for this mess. I will tell you this: if Ronald Reagan were President, this whole fiasco would have been over Monday morning.

FAA FLIGHT DELAYS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, these FAA flight delays have been in effect for less than a week and already the American people are suffering. FAA's financial mismanagement is now costing Americans time and money, and yet