

Sergeant Paul A. Buckles of the Potter County Sheriff's Office.

Chief of Police Lee Dixon of the Little River-Academy Police Department.

Chief of Police Michael Pimentel of the Elmendorf Police Department.

Border Patrol Agent Tyler R. Robledo.

Senior Deputy Jessica Laura Hollis of the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

Sergeant Michael Lee Naylor of the Midland County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Sheriff Jesse Valdez, III, of the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Constable Robert Parker White of the El Paso County Constable's Office.

Sergeant Alejandro "Alex" Martinez of the Willacy County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Speaker, all of these officers died because they were wearing the badge. As a former prosecutor and a former judge, I have known a lot of police officers. I have known some who have been killed in the line of duty. They, like Officer Moore, represent the best of America.

This week, other police officers throughout the country will be wearing the black cloth of sacrifice over their badge or their star, showing respect for those who have fallen in the line of duty in this country.

So we thank the families of the fallen. We thank the fallen for what they have done. We thank all of those who still protect and serve America. They are the best we have.

And that is just the way it is.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the clock ticks down, May 31—18 calendar days and 6 legislative days away—is the expiration of the latest of now 24 short-term extensions that are testimony to Congress' inability to face up to America's transportation challenges.

As I predicted last summer, States around the country are now cutting back on their summer construction projects because Congress has not met its responsibility for the transportation partnership.

Why is it that five States have been able to raise the gas tax this year, 19 States have raised transportation revenues in the previous 2 years, and we in Congress are confused and in disarray? We have to think of elaborate mechanisms to enact short-term patches and not give America the certainty of a big, bold 6-year transportation reauthorization the country needs.

Maybe it is because we never listened to the strong voices with real experience about those needs. It is past time to have that broad perspective.

Maybe if we had 2 days of honest-to-goodness hearings like legislative bodies do in the States, like we used to do in Congress, it wouldn't be so hard.

What if we invited Richard Trumka, the president of the AFL-CIO, and Tom

Donohue, the president of the U.S. Chamber, who don't usually agree on much of anything, but do on this? Or, former Kansas Governor Bill Graves, who is not just president of the American Trucking Associations but was a Republican Governor who raised the gas tax not once, but twice.

What if we invited former Mayor Bloomberg, Governor Schwarzenegger, and former Governor Ed Rendell? What if we brought in the head of American Road & Transportation Builders Association, Dr. Pete Ruane? The electrical contractors are in town this week. They could tell us. I have got a great constituent, Ted Aadland, who used to be chair of AGC.

There are countless people, government leaders, and legislative leaders who have stepped up and met their responsibility, all expecting that Congress would do its part.

These experts, leaders, and politicians know what the problem is. They fashion solutions. And they are willing to give the politicians in Congress cover to do something that appears hard only in the abstract.

There is broad consensus for the same solution that was advocated by Ronald Reagan, who in 1982 raised the gas tax. Or, Dwight Eisenhower, who helped establish the gas tax for the modern transportation system. It is hard only because we don't do our job.

The leaders who say the gas tax is off the table never explained why it is off the table and, more important, have not allowed the experts and advocates from around the country to come and make the case.

Republicans took control 55 months ago, and we have not had a single hearing on transportation finance before the Ways and Means Committee. Not one hearing. Maybe if the Ways and Means Committee would do its job, not with a carefully scripted, selected couple of witnesses that reaffirm somebody's biases, but the people who actually head the organizations that do this work, that understand the need, that have helped States around the country meet their responsibilities, maybe we could act. I suspect after 2 full days of hearings, the American public and the rest of Congress would get the message.

It doesn't have to be this hard. Show some courage, show some vision, show some action. Maybe then we won't have a 25th short-term extension. What country became great building its infrastructure 9 months at a time? Maybe we could finally enact a 6-year robust reauthorization that would solve this problem for the current administration and the next and put hundreds of thousands of people to work at family wage jobs.

Let's end this hopeless charade that somehow it is too hard for Congress to do what happens in New Hampshire, South Dakota, Georgia, Wyoming, Utah, and Iowa. Let's get a grip, people, and do our job and listen to the experts.

No more evasion, gimmicks, and short-term extensions. Raise the gas tax, put those hundreds of thousands of people to work rebuilding and renewing America. Make our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

STANDING FOR LIFE—WE MUST NOT REMAIN SILENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

As I consider the current state of our Nation's debate about abortion, I am a bit puzzled when I hear the word "health care" in discussing such a topic.

Unlike procedures for common ailments that would be typically associated with the term "health care," abortion has as its very object the taking of a human life. The term "abortion" forces the question: What—or, better said, who—is being terminated? Without a doubt, it is clear that abortion ends the life of these little human beings.

Many will want to discuss health care today, but I ask: Who is responsible for the health care of the baby? Who among us is assigned to protect this most precious life?

Each baby bears the unique imprint of our Creator, with goodness, truth, and beauty to offer the world. Yet these children will never be able to grow, play, dream, and reach their full God-given potential.

My wife, a nurse practitioner, and I faced a very unexpected pregnancy in our late thirties. After the shock wore off, we embraced the idea of a new little girl who would be part of our family. In fact, I have decided to bring a picture of her today.

I have a great screen shot of the ultrasound 3 months into the pregnancy. Interestingly enough, we never referred to her as fetus number three. We called her Anna Claire. Just like any of you, parent or grandparent, we all take great pride in displaying new life.

Please allow me to make this clear. I don't speak ill of or despise anyone who has made a fateful but very difficult decision. As a former minister, I have seen the anguish and the hurt both before and after what can be an excruciating process.

Yet today, we are faced with an historic decision that has nothing to do with trade or with budgets but, rather, has everything to do with life. In this moment, we have the opportunity to address something that many countries have already outlawed.

Though many of us would prefer legislation that would go even further, this bill would impose a simple restriction that follows naturally and universally shared rules of humanity and

compassion. To that end, H.R. 36 protects the unborn child from being aborted after 20 weeks of gestation.

Medical science tells us that the baby fights for survival in a second or third trimester abortion. He or she recoils in pain at the poison intended to stop their heart and the clamps used to dismember their tiny little body. We cannot deny this evidence. We must not look the other way.

While we show compassion to mothers who are facing difficult decisions, we must also protect the babies who are surely counted among the “least of these.” Who will be their voice? God forbid if we don’t speak out.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

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When this final page of human story is turned, what will we have done to embrace justice, to love mercy, and be a voice for those who have none?

The American people have grown weary of the rhetoric in D.C. Attention and being aware is good, but there comes a time when we have to move from the awareness stage to the action steps. Today is that time.

I urge my friends on both sides of this Chamber to break the silence, to stand up for life, and support H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

BUDGET CUTS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, MomsRising, a national grassroots organization of moms, delivered a petition signed by more than 25,000 moms from all across the country urging this Congress not to cut SNAP in the fiscal year 2016 budget.

Every Member of this House received the petition signed by moms in their districts. Today, that petition has grown to nearly 50,000 signatures, and it keeps on growing. This is just the latest petition from MomsRising urging Congress to prioritize children in the budget and protect SNAP from cuts and other structural changes.

I want to share one of the stories from a mom. Monique from Ohio writes:

I was raised to always work and so was my husband. We have tried to instill this in our daughter, even going so far as to work opposite shifts and have family babysit if there was an overlap. When my husband was laid off 2 years ago and then couldn’t find work, I tried my best to keep us floating on just my income, walking to work because I didn’t have the bus fare, often having \$20 or less after paying the bills to feed my family for a week.

I resisted getting on welfare, having been raised never to take a handout. My pastor

was the one who pointed out that I had already paid for that right through my taxes over several decades.

Since signing up for SNAP benefits, I can feed my family filling, nutritious meals again. Of course, my husband is still looking for work, and that will pick up the slack again if he gets work, and once he finds it, we will happily forego the benefits again. Until then, all I can say is thank God and the government for having a safety net in place.

Unfortunately, Monique’s story is not unique, but it shows that, without SNAP, her family would have been much worse off during these tough times.

One in five children in the United States experiences hunger. Without the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, that number would sadly be much higher. Already, nearly half of all SNAP participants are children under the age of 18—nearly half, Mr. Speaker.

This is despite the fact that SNAP households with children have high work rates. Families with children who are working continue to earn so little that they still qualify for SNAP, and they will struggle to put food on the table.

Mr. Speaker, we know that hunger can lead to a myriad of negative outcomes for children. From health problems and compromised immune systems, to poor nutrition, to an inability to concentrate and succeed in school, childhood hunger means kids suffer.

Despite these sobering statistics, the Republican budget resolutions passed by the House and Senate made draconian cuts to SNAP and other critical programs to help poor children and their families.

The budget conference report only makes these cuts worse. It builds upon the \$125 billion cut to SNAP in the House budget. To achieve a cut of that magnitude by block granting the program and capping its allotment means that States would be forced to cut benefits or cut eligible individuals and families off the program. There are simply no good choices. In short, it would make hunger worse in America, much worse.

Mr. Speaker, SNAP is one of the only remaining basic protections for the very poor. For many of the poorest Americans, SNAP is the only form of income assistance they receive. SNAP provides food benefits to low-income Americans at a very basic level. SNAP benefits are already too low. They average less than \$1.40 per person, per meal. We should not be balancing the Federal budget on the backs of the poor and working families. We should not be making childhood hunger worse in America.

I commend MomsRising for their leadership and for taking action to protect SNAP and ensure that all children have access to healthy, nutritious foods.

Later today, MomsRising will start a Twitterstorm under the #missionpossible to highlight how

building a strong economy for women, families, and the Nation is mission possible with policies to protect SNAP, promote healthy nutrition, guarantee paid sick days, require equal pay for equal work, and make child care more affordable. These are economic security priorities that boost our families and our economy.

As the old adage goes, “Mother knows best.” We should listen to our moms, especially as we gather only a few days after Mother’s Day. We should be strengthening families’ economic security, and we should be working to end hunger now, not making it worse.

PROTECTING THE UNBORN

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, for the sake of all those who founded this Nation and dreamed of what America could someday be and for the sake of all those since then who have died in darkness so America could walk in the light of freedom, it is so very important for those of us who are privileged to be Members of this Congress to pause from time to time and remind ourselves of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson, whose words marked the beginning of this Nation said:

The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government.

The phrase in the Fifth Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says:

No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

The 14th Amendment says:

No State shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of all Americans and their constitutional rights, especially those who cannot protect themselves, is why we are all here; yet today, Mr. Speaker, a great shadow looms over America because more than 18,000 very late-term abortions are occurring in America every year, placing the mothers at exponentially greater risk and subjecting their pain-capable unborn babies to torture and death without anesthesia or Federal protection of any kind in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and it is the greatest human rights atrocity in the United States today.

Almost every other civilized nation on this Earth, Mr. Speaker, protects pain-capable unborn babies at this age, and every credible poll of the American people shows that they are overwhelmingly in favor of protecting them; yet we have given these little babies less legal protection from unnecessary cruelty than the protection we have given farm animals under the Federal Humane Slaughter Act.

Mr. Speaker, it seems we are never quite so eloquent as when we decry the