

Passage of this necessary ethical reform would restore the public's confidence and perception that the judiciary is independent, impartial, and apolitical; and it would protect public confidence in the rule of law, the inviolability of the judiciary and the incomparable and unique role it plays in the delicate system of checks and balances that sustains our democracy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE WALTER JONES, JR.

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my colleague, Representative Walter Jones, Jr.

For 24 years, Congressman Jones represented the people of North Carolina's Third Congressional District with pride and integrity. In his quarter century in service to our great country, Congressman JONES was a steadfast voice and advocate for North Carolina.

He was unafraid to put people before politics and was a dedicated public servant. He was a principled leader. He stood firmly for what he believed and wasn't afraid to admit when he made a mistake.

Second Corinthians 5:8 reminds us that "... to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." I pray that Congressman Jones has now found the peace that he sought.

To his wife, Joe Anne, and daughter, Ashley, please know that Walter Jones left an indelible mark upon our State and Nation, and he will be missed.

PROTECT BABIES BORN ALIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues to speak out against the radical and dangerous policies being pursued by Democratic leadership and State legislators across the country.

In New York, a new law legalizes what amounts to infanticide—allowing abortions up to and even after birth for almost any reason—and ends the safeguards that protect babies born alive after an abortion attempt.

□ 1715

In Virginia, a similar bill is under consideration that could lead to babies

being denied lifesaving medical care. As Governor Ralph Northam put it: "The infant would be kept comfortable . . . and then a discussion would ensue."

I think this is sickening. That is why my colleagues and I have called for the House vote on H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a commonsense bill to require that medical care—just medical care—be provided to children who survive a failed abortion.

Sadly, Democratic leadership in the House is standing in the way and refusing even to allow an up-or-down vote on this issue. This is not a partisan issue. It is simply what is right.

We have got to stand together against this radical and inhumane agenda. We must act to protect the rights of all infants.

I am grateful to be joined in this call by so many of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Third District of Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER).

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to get to be here on this floor, and I get to share my story.

In mid-2013 my husband, Dan, and I went in for our 20-week ultrasound as excited first-time parents. We were not prepared for what we were told. We were told our unborn baby had a zero percent chance at survival. There were no kidneys. It was a condition called bilateral renal agenesis, or Potter's syndrome. As a result, our baby would either miscarry or be born unable to breathe because her lungs wouldn't develop. She would literally suffocate upon arrival if we brought her to term.

I, of course, was encouraged from physicians to abort my baby. While there are many reasons that lead women to make that decision, Dr. Jennifer Gunter, who is a women's health advocate, asserts that "terminations after 24 weeks are for severe fetal anomalies."

Now, our baby's diagnosis wasn't just severe; it was without any glimmer of hope. Being told that that wriggling, alive, kicking child in your stomach will certainly die doesn't just take the breath out of your lungs, it is like hell screaming in your face, and it leads to fear.

Miraculously, our doctors were wrong. We pushed forward with that pregnancy and were successful. We had seen something that had never happened before: my baby developed lungs in utero without kidneys. It was an impossible outcome to the medical world at that time.

In good faith, our doctors had given us their honest, professional opinions. But guess what. Doctors aren't infallible.

While we wouldn't have known this if we hadn't tried to overcome this diagnosis—and through divine intervention and some amazing doctors who were willing to charter new waters, literally—we now get to experience our

daughter, Abigail, who is holding the Bible for the swearing-in standing next to me and Speaker PELOSI, a healthy, happy 5-year-old who is a big sister. She says that some day she is going to be the boss of Mommy's work.

Look out, Speaker PELOSI.

So since our story became public, I have talked to moms all over the world who, like me, carried their babies into the second and third trimesters hoping to deliver and then are given devastating diagnoses. But what if the doctor is wrong about their babies, too?

Abigail was the first to survive her condition, but because of her breakthrough, she is not the only survivor now.

Radical legislation in New York and Virginia has recently brought late-term or partial-birth abortion into the spotlight. But what if we used this discussion to go on the offensive against the potential disease instead of attacking the pregnancy itself?

Some parents have been presented with scary prenatal tests that can produce false alarms. These same earnest, loving, would-be parents have made permanent decisions based on what could be incorrect information.

What if the baby won't have that significant health condition or disability after all? Or even if she does, what about the loving families eager to raise a child in anticipation of her living a full and fulfilling life?

We got to hear Frank Stephens, an exceptionally joy-filled disability champion with Down syndrome, describe, at a congressional hearing, how he is a medical gift to society in that his extra chromosome might lead to the answer to Alzheimer's. Science bears this out.

Our society celebrates the term, "diversity." Shouldn't that mean full diversity, which includes all physical and mental abilities, or disabilities as some call it?

We step onto very shaky ground when we start deciding who lives or dies based on one's abilities or, possibly, lack thereof in utero because, despite our best intentions or the best intentions of the messenger—doctor or otherwise—there is a limit to what science can predict.

That is not naivete speaking. That is coming from the mom of a child who was given a zero percent chance of survival based on, at the time, sound science.

Now this kiddo has a full, adult life ahead of her, and those of us who know her are privileged, immeasurably.

Do you know what? Every single child, regardless of their ability, has that same potential if we only give them that chance.

I believe that care, understanding, and compassion are needed at every stage of a woman's maternal journey. But to me, that means empowering mothers to dwell in the realm of the possible, not the impossible, even if it has never been tried before.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Fourth District of New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and I thank Representative CHRIS SMITH for his leadership and courage.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, what an expression of love, compassion, and faith we just heard, the child who was thought to be impossible; and what a tribute to parents and a mother who just love so unconditionally.

Mr. Speaker, in 2012, two bioethicists, Dr. Alberto Giubilini and Francesca Minerva, published an outrageous paper in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* justifying the deliberate, premeditated murder of newborn babies during the first hours, days, and even weeks after birth. The ethicists said:

When circumstances occur after birth that would have justified abortion, what we call after-birth abortion should be permissible.

In other words, the same conditions that would justify the killing of a baby in utero justifies the killing of that baby even when she is born.

These two individuals made it clear that because the child does not have dreams about the future at birth, that that somehow is a disqualifier to personhood.

The infanticide that they proposed, Mr. Speaker, is here. After-birth abortion is here.

A couple weeks ago, New York Governor Cuomo signed into law a bill to allow abortion until birth and even removes penalties for infanticide. Other States, including Virginia, Rhode Island, and New Mexico, have similar anti-child statutes under consideration.

The violent assault on children, Mr. Speaker, must end. Not only have 61 million unborn babies been killed since 1973 by either dismemberment—when a child is torn apart, arms, legs, and torso, literally dismembered—or by chemical poisoning, a death toll that equates with the entire population of Italy, the pro-choice crowd now is legislating to extend the violence after birth.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot look away when a child's fundamental human rights are being violated with such lethal actions. Pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act now. Mr. Speaker, give us that chance to vote on this.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Second Congressional District of Alabama (Mrs. ROBY).

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman for leading this very, very Special Order tonight.

This topic is critically important, especially in light of the heartbreaking news we have already referenced that has come out of New York and Virginia in recent weeks.

I want to start by thanking the gentlewoman from Washington for stand-

ing up tonight and telling us her story. The gentlewoman does have an amazing story and an amazing family: a loving husband, Dan; and Ethan and Abigail.

This is a family, and so we know each other's children. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that walking through that journey with the gentlewoman as her friend and colleague has been so special to Riley, to me, and to our children, Margaret and George, who love them just the same.

So I thank the gentlewoman so much for standing on the floor tonight and having the courage to tell her amazing story. It just means a lot. So I thank the gentlewoman for that.

Of course, I was stunned to hear the boisterous cheering upon the New York State Legislature's passage of a bill that would significantly loosen restrictions on late-term abortions.

Meanwhile, in Virginia, the Democratic Governor recently threw his support behind similar legislation and made comments that served as a horrific defense of born-alive abortions.

For the purpose of tonight's discussion, we have got to call born-alive abortion what it is, and it is infanticide.

Here in Congress, part of our job is to debate the issues. Our dialogue surrounding legislation is a critically important component of the democratic process in this country.

Still, no matter how our stances on abortion may vary, I hope we can all agree that, if an abortion fails and a child is born alive, the child must be given the same medical care that any other living, breathing infant would otherwise be given.

I want to take this opportunity to reassure the people I represent in Alabama that I remain unapologetically pro-life. I believe that life begins at conception, and I am opposed to abortion at any stage.

I am severely disturbed that this country now requires written legal provision to protect living babies. But, sadly, in the aftermath of this news coming out of New York and Virginia, it is clear that this step is immediately necessary.

That is why I am proud that the House of Representatives has wasted no time in acting, and I especially appreciate my colleagues, Mr. SCALISE and Mrs. WAGNER, who have been working tirelessly to force a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a bill I cosponsored that would protect babies who are born alive during failed abortion procedures.

Again, to my colleague, I thank her so much for organizing and having this special hour tonight. This is a critically important issue, and I hope that we will continue to have these discussions not just tonight but in the days moving forward.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from the Second District of Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), who is the sponsor of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana, JACKIE WALORSKI. We are classmates and came in to Congress almost 7 years ago. I am so grateful to her for pulling this Special Order together tonight to talk about the most vulnerable in our society and talk about the right to life.

To the gentlewoman from Washington State, I have to say her story moves us all, and we are so excited about her growing family.

I cannot thank Mrs. ROBY enough for her support, her passion, and her dignity when it comes to supporting life—all of my colleagues who are here with us tonight and stand with us on this legislation.

Above all, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I believe our President, last week at the National Prayer Breakfast, said it best:

All children, born and unborn, are made in the holy image of God. Every life is sacred, and every soul is a precious gift from Heaven.

None of us could say it any better than that.

I never thought the time would come when I would have to actually argue, fight, debate, and stand for providing healthcare to infants after they are born. Yet here we are. There are, apparently, many legislators who believe it is okay to allow a child to die after it has been born.

When I first heard the news of State officials in New York and Virginia believing that it is acceptable to limit healthcare for newborn babies, I was horrified. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is not just in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of New York. In fact, only 26 States have affirmative protections for children born alive after attempted abortions—only 26 States.

In fact, in recent days, Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Mexico are considering legislation to loosen the late-term abortion restrictions that have gone forward in Virginia and New York.

□ 1730

In fact, New Mexico's House passed H.B. 51, which would effectively permit abortions up until birth and eliminate all restrictions thereafter.

To me, it is unthinkable that if a baby is born alive, anyone's first instinct could be anything but to try to save that precious, innocent life by any means possible.

Our babies are some of the most innocent, most vulnerable members of our society, and it is our responsibility, our duty, our calling to make sure that they are cared for.

Every year, babies survive late-term abortions and are left to die on tables, in bedpans, in operating rooms. This should not happen in the United States of America. It is a flagrant violation of our Constitution and an offense against women and children.

I implore my colleagues to support our bill, H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, for the next 25 days, until we can put forward a discharge petition, we will bring the born-alive act and ask for unanimous consent that it be passed by the full House. This should not be in question. This is a piece of legislation that was passed in the 115th Congress. We will do that the next 25 days until we can put together a discharge petition and force it to a vote on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Last week, I was told, when I offered the unanimous consent decree, that it was the “wrong time” to fight for the most basic of human rights. Well, Mr. Speaker, I say it is always the time to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. I ask my colleagues to join me, join us, in this fight for innocent, newborn babies.

I thank the gentlewoman for her courage and her standing up for life.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends who are here, Jaime, Representative ROBY, and Representative ANN WAGNER standing here, and I reiterate the reason we are here is that we are serious about this.

I did the unanimous consent tonight and asked the Speaker to bring that bill down right now and bring it to a vote.

This is an issue of what is right and what is wrong. This is an issue where we have been able to rise up together tonight and speak for those who not only can’t speak for themselves but those that could potentially be born alive in this country and given a lethal injection by a doctor or some other medical professional.

What is going on in this country is absolutely horrific.

Mrs. WAGNER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. WALORSKI. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. WAGNER. So we can have a bit of a colloquy here.

I can say that it does happen. Next week, in Missouri’s Second Congressional District, I have invited a guest. She will be traveling from Kansas City to share her story. She was, in fact, a born-alive baby after an attempted abortion through saline.

She will give her testimony about what her life has meant; that it was saved; that, in fact, she was given that opportunity to live her life and to follow in the ways of the Lord and to be productive to society.

So this has happened, and we should do all we can.

Mrs. WALORSKI. It does happen. We are going to do all we can to absolutely prevent this happening. I thank my colleagues who have spoken so far.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), my friend and fellow Hoosier from Indiana’s Sixth District.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to life, the protection of the unborn, and the protection of those who survive the violence of the unborn.

The greatness of our free society can best be measured by how it cares for the most vulnerable. I am deeply troubled by the efforts by some to expand late-term abortion and remove any conceivable limits on this horrific practice.

In the face of such an onslaught, let the miracles of conception, pregnancy, and childbirth serve as a solemn reminder of the constant fight for life. On this, there should be no question that Members of Congress from both parties should agree to the fact that every child born into this world has the right to live.

We must stand together for life and the unborn and protect those who cannot protect themselves when handed abortion’s death sentence.

I pray that one day each and every life, born and unborn, is respected, valued, and given the chance to pursue his or her dreams. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 962.

We must never, ever give up in the fight for life.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my friend from the Second District of Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding to me.

I rise to join my colleagues in advocating for the unborn. This country was founded to preserve our inalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Abortion, the murder of innocent children, cannot coexist with our fundamental beliefs. Late-term abortion is particularly brutal. It includes tearing limbs from bodies and stopping beating hearts.

Only seven countries, including China and North Korea, have legalized this practice. The United States, Mr. Speaker, should not be in that same category as known human rights abusers.

Proponents of abortion claim pro-life policy is an attack on women’s rights, but doctors have determined late-term abortions, Mr. Speaker, endanger the mother more than giving birth. The best way to protect women’s rights is to protect life.

I close with a little story. Before my mama left this Earth to meet her savior, she was in and out of consciousness, Mr. Speaker. At one point, she had talked to her father, who had passed away long before her, and her brother, who had passed away in the Second World War, and my daddy, who had gone before her just a couple years prior.

She was looking off into the corner, and I said: What are you looking at, mama?

She said: Baby, I am looking at all those sweet little babies up there.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that my mother was looking at some babies that had been murdered.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me to protect the unborn. By doing so, we defend the inalienable rights of all Americans.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from the Fifth District of North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the distinguished Member from Indiana, Congresswoman WALORSKI, for leading this Special Order tonight and all my colleagues who are here to affirm life.

Mr. Speaker, abortion advocates used to say they wanted abortion to be “safe, legal, and rare.” Now, abortion advocates have reached new levels of disregard for new human lives by openly promoting infanticide. And legislation that would prohibit doctors from leaving born-alive infants to die cannot even get a vote under this new majority in this House of Representatives.

Bills such as the Reproductive Health Act, RHA, which was recently passed with celebration in New York, are starkly at odds with reasonable limits on abortion that most Americans support and exposes the extreme agenda of the pro-abortion movement. The RHA would expand upon Roe v. Wade’s already wide protections for access to abortion.

In New York, an abortionist no longer needs be a licensed physician. If an abortion is not successful and the child is born alive, the law offers no protections for the life of the baby. It is almost unthinkable, Mr. Speaker. Such a horrifying bill should be met with disgust and outrage, not celebrated.

It is clear that the value of life has eroded in our culture. Without a society that questions, “What are the rights of the unborn?” legislators can use their power to eliminate the right to life and promote the idea that life is dispensable.

Proponents of the New York and similar Virginia legislation should ask whether these policies truly reflect a society where women are valued or where unwanted babies are worthy of protection.

In a culture where aborted babies are collateral damage in so-called women’s healthcare, we should all fear that, following unborn children and newborns, there will soon be new targets for disposal.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my friend from the First District of Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, since I was a freshman in high school, I wanted to become a physician. I was blessed to get to do that. By the time of my second year in medical school, my wife and I had our first daughter, and most of us were trying to decide what type of doctor we were going to be. The moment that little girl was born, I knew that I wanted to spend my medical career delivering babies.

I think my wife can attest that, for the next 30 years of my life, most of my waking moments were spent with somebody in labor. I was so blessed to get to participate in that wonderful moment.

I was blessed to get to go to Congress and represent the people of Kansas.

I woke up a couple weeks ago to the cheering of State legislators from New York and their Governor. I turned up the volume to see what the fuss was. The fuss was they were celebrating their ability to murder the same babies that I had been trying to protect and deliver for the last 30 years of my life.

I don't think there are any Americans—I have never met such an American—who would think that it is right to murder a baby moments, days, or weeks before its due date. It is the most barbaric law I have ever heard of in our society.

If this wasn't enough, I turned the news on a week later, and now they are talking about murdering babies after they were born from so-called failed abortions.

I cannot believe that I live in a society that would even think about this. So I went to my office the next day, and I got my staff together and said, look, we have got some legislation that is going to take care of this. We have our born survivor abortion bill that protects babies after they are born, and then we have a pain-capable bill as well to protect babies who are able to feel pain from being aborted.

My staff looked at me: Right, we have got that legislation.

I said: All we will need is 20 or 30 Democrats to sign on to this. Surely, the Speaker of the House is against late-term abortion. Surely, she is against infanticide.

My staff looked at me with bewildered eyes and said: Congressman, I don't think we are going to find any Democrats to do that.

I wanted to talk a second about the moms, too. No one is talking about how horrible this is going to be for mothers. Moms are going to die from these late-term abortions. As an obstetrician, I never did an abortion, but guess who takes care of complications from abortions. It is obstetricians.

I remember the first week I was in residency. I was called to the emergency room, and there before me was a lady in shock. I apologize if this is too graphic, but the situation is so graphic, I have to tell you the details.

This young lady was bleeding out buckets of blood. I found out what had happened is she just had had an abortion done hours before, and now she was hemorrhaging.

I looked at the nurse. I said: What is going on here?

I knew that we needed to take her to the operating room. We found out during the procedure that a piece of that baby was still inside her uterus, and the uterus couldn't clamp down, so she was hemorrhaging.

This is a story I would see over and over again. The later the abortion procedure is done in the pregnancy, the more often we are going to see this. People are going to get perforated uteri. It will be catastrophic for women.

Mr. Speaker, we can't allow this to continue.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Fourth District of Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER), a great friend of mine who stands for life every single day that she is here.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's leadership in bringing this subject up here to the floor, to the American people, and to our colleagues.

It is deeply disturbing to see what is happening across this country, as life is no longer valued and babies are allowed to be killed, their lives snuffed out in the final moments before they are born and after they are born.

Like my colleague from Kansas before me, I was shocked when I turned on my TV, very similarly—and I am sure there are people all across this country who did that—to see the Governor of New York sitting at his table signing this bill and having all these women celebrate it and then even having a building in New York City lit up in honor of this celebration. But what were they celebrating?

□ 1745

They were celebrating not only the demise of human lives in late-term abortion, when, as Dr. MARSHALL said, they could be born alive in a hospital and given medical care, and have a productive, full life; they could have permission to have that life snuffed out; but then to have the death, perhaps, of the woman as well, at the hands of that procedure.

A lot of people are unfamiliar of how a late-term abortion is done and what these individuals in New York were celebrating. It is graphic, but people need to know what happens.

The woman's uterus is dilated, and forceps are put in there, and a limb of the baby, in the womb, is grabbed hold of. Steel forceps grab hold. They find a leg or they find an arm. They clamp down, and they pull and they pull until it rips off, and they pull out the leg and they put it in the tray.

And they go in again and they find the other leg. They pull and they rip it off and pull it out.

And then they go in for the arm, and then they pull that out. They pull out the other arm. And then they go in and crush the skull and suck it out.

Now, if this doesn't turn your stomach, America, I don't know what does. And that we could be celebrating this in parts of the country is just not only tragic, it is barbaric, and it has to be stopped.

So that is why, here in Congress, we are trying to pass the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, to stand up and to say, we are better than this as a country. That is not what America is about; that our Founders established this country and the basic rights of all who are created by our Creator, and that is the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We want to make sure every American can live out that American Dream, the ones who have the privilege of being born and the ones who, right now, people are celebrating, unborn. We want everybody to have that opportunity of life.

I call on all my colleagues and everyone across this country to rise up and say, now, now is the time that we stop this, and we set up a new path for America that values every life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for leading this.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire on the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Indiana has 26½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Utah's Second District, Representative CHRIS STEWART.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for chairing this Special Order.

You listen to our colleagues, and it is hard to listen to this and not just feel overwhelmed by it. Some things are so emotional and some things are so obvious that there are times when you just speak from the heart.

One week ago tonight, little baby Dawson was born to my family, a beautiful little baby boy, my sixth grandson. It is unbelievable to me that someone would argue that you could take that child, moments before birth, pull him from his mother's protection, and destroy that life, take away any chance he has of having any happiness in this world, take away any chance he has of being loved in this world; that you would suggest that and not call it evil.

That we could have this conversation like the Virginia Governor who said, Well, we'll take that infant; we'll make them comfortable while we decide how we are going to kill it. How could you have that conversation and not call it evil?

If you think that is okay, go make that argument to the American people. But while you are making that argument, be honest. Yes, this is a baby. Yes, it is moments from birth; in some cases the child has been delivered. It is alive, laying there before you. Yes, you are going to kill it.

Most Americans find that repulsive. Most Americans find it unbelievable that we are having this conversation. Most Americans find it evil.

Please help us save these children.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Florida's Fourth District, Representative JOHN RUTHERFORD.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding, and I appreciate this opportunity to speak for life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because there are actually elected leaders in this country, in the United States of America, who believe a baby can be left

to die after having been born alive. How is this even a debate in the United States of America?

When did murder become a partisan issue?

Some on the other side of the aisle call this “parental choice” and “healthcare.”

But, Mr. Speaker, I tell you that infanticide is murder, not healthcare. And abortion is not the answer to a pre-born child’s physical or mental disability.

But don’t just take it from me. Listen to the words of Mr. Frank Stephens, who was actually born with Down syndrome and leads a remarkable life, a life worth living.

He had this to say about abortion: “On abortion, I don’t want to make it illegal. I want to make it unthinkable. Politicians change laws. I want to change people’s hearts.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to partner with Frank Stephens because I believe that we can do both, making late-term abortion unthinkable, and illegal.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my fellow Hoosier from Indiana’s Fourth District, Representative JIM BAIRD.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the gentlewoman, and I appreciate all her efforts regarding this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to voice a concern over the actions taking place in New York, Virginia, and across the country that directly threaten the sanctity of life. These proposals are far beyond what Hoosiers in my community, and most folks around the country, believe is right.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This legislation will make it illegal to kill babies that are born alive after surviving an attempted abortion.

The degradation of life in this country is deeply concerning. Congress needs to step up and do what is right. The extreme views of some should not overwhelm the commonsense majority of millions of Americans.

Protecting the sanctity of life is something I will continue to fight for, to ensure that those without a voice can be heard and their lives spared.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Michigan’s Seventh District, Representative TIM WALBERG.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for taking on this issue.

When we have heard words such as the Governor of Virginia and others who would say that it is okay for a male Governor of Virginia to make a statement; but generally, men should not be talking about something that is only given to women to talk about because it is about their bodies, about their lives. Well, it is. But I think we need to talk as well.

And if it is not me who should talk, I would like to read for you the state-

ments of another individual who, I think, expresses all I would want to say this evening. And I will read just a few excerpts from an article he wrote.

He said: “Do you want us to let him go?”

“Those were the first words that were spoken over me as I came into the world. Those were the words of my delivery room doctor as he held my armless and lifeless body in his arms. As he assessed me and my situation, all he could tell my parents is that I was ‘not viable.’

Those were the words of Daniel Ritchie as he spoke about his birth. He said: “Not bad for a kid that wasn’t supposed to lead a full life.”

And why did he say that? He says: “It has now been almost 35 years since those words were spoken over me and a lot has happened since then. By God’s grace, I was revived. . . . I learned to feed myself, dress myself, write, type, and drive, all with my feet. I graduated from high school with honors and double majored in college. I met the girl of my dreams, got married 13 years ago, and we have two beautiful kids. Now I am a sought after speaker who shares his story at conferences, churches, schools, colleges and with corporations across the country.

Not bad for a kid that wasn’t supposed to lead a full life.”

Viability and independence are terrible indicators of life.

“I am no less of a man because of my two vacant sleeves. I am a perfect creation crafted by the hands of a careful Creator. I am not the sum of my missing parts. I am a man that God has made with talents, gifts, and abilities. Just like any person who is born blind, deaf, or paralyzed has the same sort of giftings.”

He ended by saying this: “We are all made in God’s image. We are all given talents and abilities. We are all worth being given a chance at life, no matter how small the chance may be, and I am the living example of that.

“My armless life is worth living, and I am beyond thankful my parents saw that on day one.” And he was viable.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from South Carolina’s Fifth District, RALPH NORMAN.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise my voice for those who have no voice.

You know, while we may have disagreements in this Chamber, I never thought I would have to come to this floor for this reason, to denounce the killing of children after they have been born. But I am here today because one of our Nation’s governors has endorsed infanticide in all but name.

Even though the media may be distracted by the Governor’s latest scandal, I refuse to allow this atrocity to be ignored. It is wrong, plain and simple.

I wish to live in a nation where we respect the sanctity of all human life; where condemning the murder of a child is not for debate, but a matter of course. Until then, I will not stand by

silently. I will continue to call out those who attempt to corrupt our values, whether through State laws allowing abortion on demand or Governors commanding abortion.

These actions do not represent the values of the American people. They represent the views of a small but powerful group of ideologues with no respect for the sanctity of life or the rights of the voiceless.

I find it bizarre that the party of birthright citizenship will not endorse the birthright to life.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from West Virginia’s Third District, Representative CAROL MILLER.

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand for life.

I am a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. I have felt life quicken in my womb. I know the blessing of children, all of whom are created in God’s image. And that is why I am so saddened by the pro-abortion discussions taking place around the country and in places like New York, Virginia, and others, where State legislatures are debating and legalizing abortion all the way up to birth and, in some cases, after a child is born.

I am sickened that laws are being written which allow for a baby who survives an abortion attempt to no longer receive support and care once they are born. This is infanticide. There is no other way to say it. This is an affront to life.

We must demand more from our country and our citizens. We must ensure protections for the youngest and most innocent of our citizens, both inside and outside the womb. We must take care of those who cannot take care of themselves. We must take care of our children. We must take care of and respect and cherish life.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Ohio’s Sixth District, Representative BILL JOHNSON.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as a proud father of four and a grandfather of six, I rise today in strong support of those who cannot defend themselves, the most innocent and defenseless among us, the unborn.

□ 1800

I share the pro-life views of those I serve in eastern and southeastern Ohio.

A few weeks ago, many Ohioans joined more than 100,000 pro-life Americans at the annual March for Life here in Washington, D.C. Although, with so little national media coverage of this major event, some may have missed this passionate and growing movement made up of men and women, boys and girls from all walks of life.

Recently, we have witnessed the inhuman policies introduced by multiple States permitting late-term abortions, even, unbelievably, all the way up to birth.

It is past time that Congress pass legislation banning this horrific practice.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides to reject infanticide and defend the sanctity of human life.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), my friend from Washington's Fifth District.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues this afternoon in celebrating the dignity and the value of every human life.

I am a mom of three young kids, Cole, Grace, and Brynn, and I can testify that becoming a mom, bringing a life into the world, is the most amazing thing ever.

With technology today, we can look into the womb; we can see day by day how a baby is developing. It is a miracle to witness and it is proof that we as human beings are not defined by our limits. We are empowered by the potential that we have and who we can become.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am frightened and I am heartbroken that anyone would oppose the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act led by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER.

Just as the science is undeniable, it should be unthinkable to deny life-saving care to a newborn baby.

We have amazing technology. We can do more than ever. It is limitless.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to take a step back, to look at the science, and let this bill come to the floor. It is the right thing to do.

You know, since our founding, we have been a country that cherishes every person's inalienable human right, and it is the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is in all of us to uphold those values and ensure that we are protecting the dignity of every person as God intended.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI for her leadership. I thank her for bringing us all together so that we could be warriors of human dignity and human value.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would again inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 11 minutes remaining.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), my friend from Illinois's 18th District.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to say thanks to Mrs. WALORSKI, my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, for yielding to me and for her leadership in putting together this Special Order and her tireless fight for life.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today in defense of life and the unborn. Over the last few weeks, we have witnessed extreme abortion views pushed in States across the country.

In New York, the State legislature passed and the Governor signed into

law an abortion bill so broad it effectively allows abortion on demand until birth while removing protections for infants born alive during an abortion. Barbaric legislation such as this is nothing to cheer about.

In Virginia, the Governor tried to soften the blow of his infanticide endorsement by saying "the infant would be kept comfortable" while a decision was made on whether to abort the infant.

These disturbing and extreme trends seeping into the mainstream of the Democratic platform underscore the need for its leaders in Congress to stand up, to fight for life in the face of these abhorrent actions.

Now more than ever, leaders in Washington need to stand up for life.

I stand committed with the millions of pro-life advocates around the country to make sure infanticide is condemned and the voiceless are given a voice.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), my friend from North Carolina's Sixth District.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WALORSKI, JACKIE, if I may, for her leadership and showing courage on this important topic.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act protects the lives of babies who survive abortions by requiring the healthcare practitioner to save the life of the baby. Sounds pretty much like common sense, doesn't it?

I am a proud cosponsor of Ms. ANN WAGNER's bill fighting for the sanctity of life.

As a former pastor, I value each and every life that is brought into this world, and that is why it is imperative that we pass this legislation and put an end to the senseless murders of innocent babies.

Earlier this week, I asked for unanimous consent, before being gavelled out, to bring the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to the House floor for a vote. Unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues put their party leadership and affiliation over voting for what is morally right.

The statistics are staggering. In just looking at a few States, we found 25 children that were born alive that survived a botched abortion just in 2017. It is concerning to think how much higher those numbers would be if we looked throughout the entire country.

Simply put, I stand with 80 percent of Americans who support legislation to protect the life of a baby who survives a failed abortion.

At a time when States like New York and Virginia are matching abortion laws of North Korea in making it easier to perform abortions until the birth of a child, it is absolutely necessary for us to stand in unity and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), my friend from Georgia's 12th District.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WALORSKI for her efforts in organizing this important Special Order.

You know, Mr. Speaker, as the proud father of four and grandfather of 13, I rise here this evening, joined by many of my Republican colleagues, to recognize that we have a moral duty and obligation to protect the most vulnerable among us: those who cannot yet protect or speak for themselves.

But as we stand here tonight, Democrats in State legislatures across the country are celebrating legislation to deny medical care to an innocent baby who is born alive after a failed abortion. We cannot stand idly by and allow this to happen.

How have we come to this point in our country where infanticide is something we disagree on? Each and every one of us has a right to life, even an innocent newly born gift from God, and I will continue to stand up and fight for that right to life every step of the way.

We must continue to be proactive in bringing commonsense pro-life legislation to the House floor. I hope to have an opportunity to offer my full support for these bills and protect the sanctity of life.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON), my friend from Texas' 22nd District.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Missouri for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, in 2012, Ashley and Toribio Cardenas got the best news parents can hear: they are going to have a baby girl.

They got an ultrasound at 16 weeks. They saw the outlines of their new daughter, Audrina. She was gorgeous. They had pure joy.

Right after they left, the sonographer rushes to call the obstetrician. This little gift from God has ectopia cordis. Her heart is outside of her body. Sixteen human beings out of 1 million have this condition, and it is usually fatal.

The doctors tell Ashley she has two choices: either abort Audrina or keep going and pray for the best.

Ashley had to act quickly, because Texas law prohibited abortion after 20 weeks. This happened at 17 weeks.

She felt Audrina in her womb kicking and thriving, and she thought: "Who wants to take a life away? Who wants to stop a beating heart?"

That is true love.

Audrina was born alive. Ashley saw her, gave her a kiss, and then she was rushed off to the cardiac intensive care room for babies, the ICU. Little Audrina had surgery the very next day.

Here is a picture of her I printed out in the hospital; that beautiful young girl, her heart behind that plate.

Her first year of life, there are wires everywhere. She was on oxygen and had to eat through a feeding tube.

But here that beautiful girl is today with a sign that says: "#speaknowforkids."

This is a sign for Audrina and for every kid facing abortion.

Congress, American people, speak now for the kids. Support the bill, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Don't kill babies.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me this evening to stand up for the most vulnerable among us.

We stand together to defend the sanctity of life, to speak out against a radical anti-life agenda that would effectively legalize infanticide.

I have long fought to defend the unborn, but I am shocked that I now have to defend the right to life of newborn infants. These precious children are in peril, their rights are under attack, their lives are under attack, and this House has the responsibility to act.

Tonight the American people heard our call to action. It is time to vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Will the leadership of this House listen or will the Democratic majority continue to allow this march toward legalized infanticide?

If we don't send a strong message that every baby has been endowed by its creator with inalienable rights, that we are not defending the fundamental principles of the Constitution, if we don't protect these children from harm, we are abandoning the basic truth of our humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for standing with me here tonight. I urge the support of House bill H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and to stand against infanticide.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DINGELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and will be joined by a number of my colleagues from the State of Michigan to pay tribute to a person that I have known of and got to know as an adult, but I have known Congressman John Dingell virtually all of my life. Having grown up in Michigan and grown up in a family involved in politics in Michigan, I was aware of John Dingell from my earliest days.

He served in this House with incredible dignity and great distinction, longer than anyone else in the history of this country, of this government. In fact, nearly one out of four Members of the House of Representatives in its entire history served with Congressman John Dingell.

Yesterday, several of us made an attempt to fly, we left Andrews Air Force Base in a storm and attempted to fly to Michigan and were, unfortunately, unable to land due to the weather.

We are here and will be able to honor him this evening and also honor him tomorrow at the funeral that will take place here in Washington.

So our thoughts go to the Dingell family, especially to our colleague, John's wife, Congressman Dingell's wife, whom he often referred to as "the lovely Deborah." She is a friend and a colleague. I have known her myself, as well, for as long as I can possibly remember.

I will have more to say about Congressman Dingell, but I think there are just a few aspects of his career that I just want to make sure I noted for the record.

The longest-serving Member of this House, he is known not just for the longevity and the quantity of his time here, but for the incredible impact that he had on our country, on our Nation, and on the policies that he believed in and stood for.

He served as the chairman or the ranking member on the House Energy and Commerce Committee from 1981 to 2008, shaping very important legislation on clean air, clean water, protecting endangered animals, advocating for national healthcare. In fact, in every Congress that he served in, he continued the legacy of his father, who preceded him in Congress, by introducing legislation that would guarantee healthcare for every American.

□ 1815

Some of the legislative highlights: National Wilderness Act, 1964; Water Quality Act, 1965; National Environmental Policy Act, 1970; Endangered Species Act, 1973; Natural Gas Policy Act, 1978; Prescription Drug Marketing Act, 1988; Clean Air Act Amendments, 1990; Energy Independence and Security Act, 2007; National Instant Criminal Background Check System Improvements, 2008; Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, 2010; FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, 2011.

Any one of these would constitute the highlight of a legislative career, and every one of them are attributable to the work of Congressman John Dingell.

Before I yield to my colleagues, I want to mention one other piece of legislation that he is known for. In my first term—the only term that I shared with Congressman Dingell—we celebrated, as a nation, the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Late that evening, commemorating that day, I happened to turn on C-SPAN and was watching old videotape of the signing ceremony where President Lyndon Johnson stood with the civil rights and legislative leaders of our Nation. I saw this tall figure walk into the frame, shake President Johnson's hand, and receive the President's congratulations for his work on that historic piece of legislation.

I went to bed, and the very next day, I got up and walked over here for a session. I sat in that chair right there, next to the one that Congressman John

Dingell sat in for all those years, and I spoke to the guy who I saw the night before in a moment of American history. He was still here fighting for the very same things that he had fought for, for so long. I took that as a personal privilege, to have been able to serve with him.

As I said, this is a tremendous loss for our country. It is a tremendous loss for me personally. Our hearts go out to DEBBIE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Flint for yielding. I appreciate the opportunity that we have to stand on the floor tonight as a bipartisan delegation, Republicans and Democrats who are joined together by a love of a great State, the greatest State, Michigan, and the history that is there that includes a gentleman, a leader, like John Dingell.

This is a vision that too often is not seen by constituents back in the district, isn't it? They often think that if you are a Republican or a Democrat, you are automatically an antagonist for the other side. That is just not true, especially as we work together as a delegation.

I learned one thing of many things, but one thing I will share tonight from John D. Dingell, Jr. I will let that rest a little bit and let it build to what in the world I am going to say that I learned specifically from John Dingell that was unique, special, and important to me and that I hope I never forget.

It was in 1983 that I first met John Dingell. I was a freshman in the State House of Representatives. I was in Adrian, Michigan, the county seat of the house district I represented. We were there for a ribbon cutting. I heard a commotion going on through the room, and the commotion was simply this: Big John Dingell is about here. He is about to arrive.

Well, I had never met big John Dingell or John Dingell at all. Mr. Speaker, like Mr. KILDEE, I knew it was a historic moment.

Sure enough, soon he came in. He swept into the room, and I met a man who, yes, indeed, was 6-foot-4. Strong of appearance and presence, he commanded a presence in the room. Yet he shook every single hand in the room, including this freshman member of the State legislature who he had never met, maybe even never heard my name. There was a warmth about that. I learned something from that.

Over the years, seeing him in operation, and then, ultimately, coming here in 2007 for my first term, and having a chance to go up and sit where he always sat, right over there, to sit and talk with him, initially, very timid, asking legislative questions, but then we got down to important things like: What is your favorite shotgun? What are your favorite hunting sports? Who, indeed, fitted your shotgun to you?

As we began to talk about things later on, it became apparent that, with