

Just last week, an 18-year-old woman in Las Vegas was shot dead by her boyfriend while they sat in their car outside of a neighborhood barbecue.

This country has an epidemic of violence against women, which is why I stand here today to ask this body to reauthorize and expand the Violence Against Women Act.

This bill will provide crucial resources to survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. It will invest in education programs that teach young men to stop the cycle of violence. It will provide Tribes with new mechanisms to hold non-Indian predators accountable for preying on Native women. And it will close the boyfriend loophole that allows physically abusive ex-boyfriends and convicted stalkers access to guns.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will save lives, and I urge every Member of this body to support its passage.

#### HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH “JOEY” COLLETTE

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to mourn the loss of an explosive ordnance disposal warrior.

On Friday, March 22, EOD Sergeant Joey Collette was killed in action in Afghanistan. At the time, Collette was participating in a joint U.S.-Afghan special operation.

Sergeant Collette deeply wanted to deploy overseas. He did all he could and gave his all to serve his country in Afghanistan. He was loved and respected by his brothers in arms.

He is survived by his wife, Caela, whom he had married only 2 weeks prior to deploying, and by his beautiful young daughter.

I offer my most sincere condolences to Joey’s family and friends. I ask the rest of Congress to join me in ensuring that Sergeant Joey Collette and his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Sergeant Collette.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

This critical legislation is important not only for survivors, but it impacts all of us. When we are talking about survivors, we need to also look at the root of the problem and the lasting impacts of trauma on the survivors and individuals as a whole. We must acknowledge the impact of adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs.

ACE scores are based on a list of events one can witness or undergo before turning 18, including sexual abuse or death in a family. If a person scores

higher than 4, they are 700 times more likely to develop depression and other negative impacts. Obesity, diabetes, and stroke also become more likely the higher one’s ACE score.

Oklahoma’s average ACE score is 4.8, significantly higher than the rest of the country. It is no coincidence that we rank at the bottom for health, too.

I am proud of leaders in my own district, like the Palomar Family Justice Center that uses ACE data and addresses trauma in treating survivors. I am thankful for the work of the Potts Family Foundation, which has helped lead the conversation on trauma in Oklahoma and across the Nation.

These models need to be implemented on a wider scale across the country, and I am proud to stand with the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act today.

#### VOTE ON BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVOR PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, I signed the discharge petition to force a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. 193 Members, including two Democrats, have already signed it. A discharge petition has not received such overwhelming support in the first 24 hours in at least 22 years.

I applaud Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for reintroducing this bill and Republican Whip STEVE SCALISE for filing the discharge petition.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would require that a child who is born alive after an attempted abortion receives treatment and be transferred to a hospital. This legislation penalizes the intentional killing of a child who is born alive.

Unfortunately, we have seen horrific actions in New York and Virginia to allow late-term abortion. It is, essentially, the execution of a defenseless child after birth.

Madam Speaker, this isn’t abortion; this is infanticide. Any doctor who would leave a child to die should face the full extent of the law.

Americans deserve to know whether their Representatives stand against infanticide or not. I urge the House to act on this bill. I urge us to choose life over murder.

□ 0915

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MS. BESSIE M. SWINDLE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the life of a great and noble American,

Ms. Bessie Swindle, who will be laid to rest.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Swindle was born in 1939 at a time when she could buy a hat but she couldn’t try it on. She was relegated to the balcony of the movie and the back of the bus.

Yet, notwithstanding all of the obstacles that life afforded her, she was a servant to multiple elected officials: two constables and two mayors.

She has been given a day in her honor by Mayor Bill White in 2007.

She was, literally, a commissioner without a commission. She was a council person without a council. She was a lawyer without a license. She was the person who gave hope to the hopeless and help to the helpless.

She lived up to the words of Ruth Smeltzer:

Some measure their lives by days and years,

Others by heartthrobs, passions, and tears. But the surest measure under God’s sun, Is what for others in your lifetime have you done.

God bless you, dear Bessie. We love you. Your spirit will live forever, and your legacy will continue to change the lives of others.

You made headway when others were making headlines.

We love you.

#### VOTE FOR THE BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to encourage the Speaker of the House to let us vote on H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. It is more than common sense; it is common decency legislation being put forth to end the barbaric act of infanticide.

Every day, Kansans watching from back home assume this must already be law. There is no way that, in America, it is legal to murder a child who already has been born.

Sadly, in some parts of this country, it isn’t common sense; it isn’t common decency. In some parts of the country, it isn’t something inherently wrong to kill a child who was born alive.

This is murder. It is appalling that it is being protected. This is murder.

Madam Speaker, let us vote.

#### HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, last week the administration made yet another attempt to strip healthcare away from our families.

Let me be clear: My community in the Central Valley needs more health coverage, not less. We need more doctors; we need more nurses; we need

more mental health services; and we need everyone with a preexisting condition to have coverage.

Each and every one of us in this Chamber has a loved one or a neighbor who would be hurt by this effort. This includes my friend Vicky, from Modesto.

She was healthy her whole life until she had her first seizure. She was hospitalized and was having four to five seizures a day until her doctor was able to find a medication that worked. She has to pay \$400 a month even now for this medicine, and she has insurance.

Imagine if this lawsuit goes through. Vicky will completely lose her insurance. There are 100,000 other people in my community with a story just like hers. These are real people who would be hurt.

Folks in my community have been crystal clear on this issue: We need more healthcare for more people.

My community needs us to move this discussion forward, not backwards.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDER of California). Pursuant to House Resolution 281 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1585.

Will the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 0919

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, with Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, amendment No. 38 printed in part B of House Report 116-32 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) had been disposed of.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MRS. AXNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 116-32.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 29, strike lines 3 through 7 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 201. SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM.

Section 41601(f)(1) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12511(f)(1)) is amended by striking “\$40,000,000 to remain available until expended for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$60,000,000 to remain available until expended for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 281, the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, the Violence Against Women Act expired on September 30, 2018. It is incredibly disappointing that we ever let this landmark bill expire in the first place, but we now have an opportunity to provide additional resources and address gaps in the expired law to better protect women in Iowa and across the land from violence. My amendment will help do that.

I have introduced an amendment that will increase STOP grants to help local law enforcement agencies and community organizations better combat and prosecute violence against women. This funding will help law enforcement agencies develop and strengthen strategies to end domestic and sexual violence.

I have met with local police officers and sheriffs throughout my district, and they all tell me they are underresourced and they are understaffed. I promised them I would do anything in my power to make sure they get what they need to protect our communities.

STOP grants also provide prosecutors with the proper tools and resources they need to get justice for survivors and prosecute those who commit violence against women.

While we must do everything in our power to stop violence against women, the sad reality is domestic and sexual violence is prevalent in this country. It is prevalent across all socioeconomic backgrounds, and it is something that is not exclusive to any one part of this country. We have it in our own backyard.

For many victims of domestic and sexual violence, recovery can be a lifelong process. We need to make sure that we are providing organizations that provide victim services, like the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, with the resources they need to develop and strengthen programs to help as many survivors as possible.

When I worked at the State of Iowa, I helped the Crime Victims Assistance Unit in the AG’s office improve their processes, so I know that in Iowa—I have seen it firsthand—we don’t have enough resources to address the needs that we have.

There are simple steps that we can take that have a major impact on the amount of people that we can help, and that is what these grants do. They will help our local law enforcement agencies, our local prosecutors, and local community organizations stop more crimes, prosecute more perpetrators, and provide services to more survivors.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, which increases the authorization of STOP grants from \$40 million to \$60 million. The amendment does not have an offset from any other account.

We had a hearing on this important legislation in committee. The gentlewoman is correct in stating that domestic violence is a problem and we must take action to confront it. It was disappointing that the legislation was taken from what was a bipartisan consensus and turned into a partisan document that went far beyond the underlying legislation which was allowed to expire.

We had a hearing, and no witness that I recall advocated, during committee, for increasing the authorization level for STOP grants.

STOP grants do perform a vital service. In fact, one of my first jobs out of law school was prosecuting under a STOP grant, prosecuting domestic violence cases in Rockingham County in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

In the markup in committee, not a single Democrat offered any amendment to increase the authorization level by an additional \$20 million. There has been no reason given to add an additional 50 percent to this specific program as opposed to any program. So I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), my colleague.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I support this amendment which would increase the sexual assault services program authorization from \$40 million to \$60 million.

This program assists States, Tribes, and territories to provide intervention, advocacy support, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault.

Experts in the field have indicated that this program is underfunded for the depth and the breadth of the work it covers, despite the remarks of the gentleman from Virginia.

It is underfunded. We need more money here. I support the amendment of the gentlewoman.

Now, the gentleman from Virginia says there is no offset. That is true. We do not need an offset.

Of course, we could take it away from President Trump’s personal part of the tax, of the \$1.8 trillion tax break that the Republicans voted for for the rich.

But the fact is we don’t need an offset. Under the rules, the appropriations bill has to deal with that. This simply makes funds available, and for a very worthy purpose.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I would state to the esteemed chairman of the committee that we have proceeded without offsets for many, many years