

Yesterday, I proudly joined my friend and colleague Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida along with Pennsylvania Senators PAT TOOMEY and BOB CASEY to reintroduce the Combat Online Predators Act.

This bill would increase criminal penalties for the stalking of children and help ensure law enforcement officials evaluate and update practices to combat online stalking of children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few things more sinister than preying on innocent children. Millions of Americans, including the most vulnerable among us, are harmed each year by stalkers. Here in Congress, we must work in a bipartisan manner to eliminate the digital footprint of predators to protect the kids in our communities and in our Nation.

I am deeply grateful for the support and advocacy of the Zezzo family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who serve as an inspiration for this piece of legislation, the Combat Online Predators Act, and for survivors everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to work with all of my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, to advance this legislation and other solutions to stop stalking in all of its forms.

#### DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS MUST COME TOGETHER TO RE-OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a freshman who came here to get things done on the 26th day of the longest government shutdown in American history.

For 26 days, we have had to explain to 800,000 dedicated, patriotic Americans why we will not pay them for their service to our country, even as they must keep paying for their rent, their medicine and their kids' educations.

For 26 days, we have had to explain why small business owners can't get loans; why food safety inspections are suspended; why lines are growing and terminals are being shut down at our airports; why we are willing to jeopardize the safety of air travelers; why we can't protect our National Parks from desecration; and why, if securing our country is so important, we aren't paying the Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection officers whose job it is to secure it.

In the last few days, I have been hearing from college students in my district who have until February 1 to apply for financial aid, but they can't access their tax transcripts from the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Why are we doing this to ourselves? The President says it is because of border security. But if we are honest, we know that that is not what this is about. If getting \$5.7 billion for a border wall is important

enough to inflict this much suffering on Americans, why didn't the President pick this fight in the 2 years when his party controlled both Houses of the Congress?

Why is he doing this now? I think we know the answer. I fear that for the President the chaos is sometimes not a means to an end, but an end in itself. He doesn't want a wall, he wants a fight over the wall; not a compromise to open the government, but a conflict that dismantles the government. And that raises the stakes for all of us.

For this is not about how we secure the border, as important as that is to all of us. It is about how we govern our country. We have a chance now to say, once and for all, Presidents are entitled to try to persuade us to support their priorities, but if they fail to persuade us, they are not entitled to shut the government down to get their way.

None of us, not Democrats or Republicans, are entitled to hold hostage the basic functions of our government to force our will on others. And if we give into this tactic now, it will be used again, and again, and again. We will have chaos in our government for as far as the eye can see.

So how do we solve this problem? We will not solve it by abdicating our responsibility in the Congress and waiting for the President to agree on something. If we wait for that, we will be waiting forever.

We will not solve it by encouraging him to use emergency powers or to use our military to defy the Congress. That would tear another hole in our constitutional fabric.

We will solve it when the House and the Senate Democrats and Republicans come together to say: This is not how we do business in a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, instead of enabling this abdication of responsibility by the White House, let us rise to our responsibility in the Congress. Let us work together to reopen the government by passing the same bills we were all willing to vote for across party lines last year, and then let's sit down together as adults to talk about immigration and the border as part of the debate about funding the Department of Homeland Security when both sides can put their ideas on the table and find common ground.

If we do that, we will not only address border security, we will break this pernicious practice of taking the American people hostage when we don't get our way.

We can make this the shutdown to end all shutdowns.

#### LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small town in Kansas, and perhaps the most respected person in the city was our family physician, Dr. Norman Oberholtzer.

Dr. Oberholtzer delivered my brother, my sister, and, of course, me. He saved my life. He had saved many people's lives. By the time I was in 9th grade, I knew I wanted to be a physician just like Dr. Oberholtzer. I worked hard and with the support of my family and friends was able to get into medical school, and by the time I was a second-year resident, I was supposed to decide what type of physician was I going to be.

Go back to February of 1987, and we had our first baby, a little girl named Lauren. And the second she was born, the moment I heard her first cry, I said: This is what I want to do. I want to deliver babies the rest of my life.

So as an obstetrician for the next 30 years, every day I got to see 10, 20, 40, sometimes 50 pregnant women. It was a great experience and there were some very special visits that I really looked forward to with those moms. Their first visit for a first-time mom was always a special moment.

The moms came in. They had a twinkle in their eyes and they may have been throwing up for 3 or 4 or 5 days already, but there was still a sparkle in their eye and excitement.

□ 1100

Sometimes I would get to do a sonogram at that first visit. Believe it or not, about a month after conception, Mr. Speaker, you can see a baby's heartbeat. They would come back at about 12 weeks for their next visit. By then, their nausea was improving, and we could hear a baby's heartbeat on the Doppler for the first time.

They came back again at about 18 weeks, and I would ask them: Do you feel the baby move yet?

Again, the mom's eyes would sparkle that they are feeling that baby move. I would notice when I would touch the mom and when I would touch the baby, the baby would push back. If there was maybe a brother or a sister in the room, if that brother or sister spoke, I could feel the baby move, and I could actually hear the heart rate increase of that little baby inside that mom.

Then, of course, later on, the favorite moment of my entire life was always getting to hear that first cry of that newborn and give that baby to a proud mom and dad.

So those are great, great times.

Mr. Speaker, I am often asked when I think life begins. I hope you can relate from the stories I just shared that I don't have any other choice but to believe that life begins at conception and that those babies are people, and they deserve our respect and our protection.

Mr. Speaker, this week, we will be welcoming 200,000 people to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

I especially salute some students who are coming from Beloit, Kansas, and Concordia, Kansas. Like many students, they will be riding a bus for 24 hours. I am so proud of them, and I look forward to seeing them. I appreciate their efforts to put their words into actions.

Mr. Speaker, as a doctor for over 25 years, I have delivered thousands of babies. I certainly understand the responsibility I have as a Member of Congress to protect the life of the unborn. In the last 2 years, this House, thanks to a Republican majority, has passed countless bills to limit abortion, end taxpayer-subsidized abortion, and prohibit abortions of unborn babies over 20 weeks. Unfortunately, these bills never made it to the President's desk.

Today, the United States is one of seven countries in the world that allows babies old enough to feel pain and survive outside the womb to be torn limb from limb. This list of seven includes China, North Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, and a list of other human rights offenders that our Nation, this country, should not be proud to be part of.

Each year, more than 600,000 abortions are performed across this country, costing our country precious lives. The fact is, only one in seven Americans support legal-under-all-circumstances Roe v. Wade, and still, Congress refuses to act.

Over the course of my first term, I made it a top priority to fight for those who can't fight for themselves, and I will continue to do so. Abortions are an injustice to the unborn and are a complete disregard for life. Congress should prevent taxpayer money from ever being funneled into immoral organizations like Planned Parenthood and finally put an end to abortion. I will unapologetically stand with the children, with these babies, who do not have a voice of their own to fight.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DIONNE PHILLIPS BAGSBY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Dionne Phillips Bagsby.

Dionne was a very strong leader in the Fort Worth community. She served as a role model to so many people, including myself, and she really was driven by her work to desegregate the Fort Worth schools when she first came to Fort Worth. That really spurred her to run for the county commissioner's seat in precinct one in 1988.

When she ran, she became the first woman and the first African American to become a Tarrant County commissioner. She did a tremendous job for Tarrant County and the city of Fort Worth.

Throughout her 16-year tenure, Dionne fought to improve public education and increase access to health resources for women and children. Her former precinct administrator, who is now the county commissioner, Roy Charles Brooks, said it best when he said that Dionne was not a politician, she was a public servant.

In 2005, I was proud to be a part of the Texas Legislature and honor her for a lifetime of service.

Again, she was a mentor and mentored so many young women throughout Fort Worth who sought to replicate her success. She helped them aspire to careers that would challenge the norm. She always encouraged those young women to never give up. Dionne broke barriers for the African American community, for women, for the disadvantaged, for the disabled, and for so many others, including myself.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you and will be honest with you, if you ever met Dionne, you will know that she was very much into straight talk. She did not mince words, and she always cut right to the chase. But I will also tell you, as I mentioned before, that Dionne was a tremendous mentor.

When I was elected to the State Legislature in 2004, Dionne was the first person to call me up, and we went and had lunch. When I got married later, she called my wife and me up, and we went and had lunch with her. When I came to Congress and was elected in 2012, she was one of the first people to call me up, and she; Lorraine Miller, who was a former Clerk of the House here; my wife; and I all went and had dinner. She was more than happy to dispense good advice that was very, very helpful to me.

Mr. Speaker, Dionne was also very instrumental in bringing a lot of firsts to Fort Worth. I mentioned her work with the schools, her being the first Black and first woman on the county commissioners court. But her legacy still lives today through The Links. She was one of the legacy members of The Links in Fort Worth. The Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, she got a national charter for that venerable organization and had the first meeting in her living room in southeast Fort Worth.

Mr. Speaker, if you ever went to any of Dionne's receptions while she was still in office between that 1988 and 2005 time period, you will know that one of the things that she liked to do was give shout-outs. She gave shout-outs to everybody from people in her family to the person who was her trainer.

I am going to give a shout-out to some of her family members and special friends today—and everybody back home, please forgive me if I have left out anyone—her daughter, Dionne Anne Jones; her son, Jimmy Bagsby; her husband who preceded her in death who was also on the Fort Worth City Council, Jim Bagsby; her grandchildren, Kirbe, Josiah, Kelli, and Elijah; and her brother, Paul Phillips.

She had so many friends whom she would like to give shout-outs to, including one who preceded her in death, Dr. Erma Johnson Hadley, her dear friend; Norma Roby; Bob Sanders; Jesse Gaines; again, Lorraine Miller; Gwendolyn Morrison; Viney Chandler; and, again, County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, who was also someone Dionne mentored and who was her precinct administrator before he became

county commissioner. He also was a very, very dear friend.

We lost a giant in Fort Worth by losing Dionne. She will be missed because she was a friend to so many and always had so many colorful, wonderful, and humorous things to say. But I can tell you that our city is better off and our county is better off because Dionne Bagsby moved to Fort Worth with her husband and helped make it a better place for everybody.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are traveling to Washington for the 46th annual March for Life.

Fighting for the rights of the most vulnerable Americans has been my most precious responsibility since long before I was elected to Congress. Most notably, I can remember marching to defend our unborn children when I was pregnant with my son Stephen in January of 1990. Last year, I was proud to march just days after my first granddaughter, Isabella Marie, was born. This Friday, the day of the March, we will celebrate Isabella's first birthday.

Again and again, I am reminded that life is beautiful, that children are a blessing, and that we must do all we can to support our Nation's mothers.

Though now we have a divided Congress, there is still so much we can do to lift up women and children. This month, my colleagues and I called on President Trump to veto any legislation that weakens Federal policies against abortion.

We are fortunate that the administration is taking action to protect life. The President has reinstated President Reagan's title 10 protect life rule, so that our tax dollars don't fund abortion providers like Planned Parenthood and others. This is widely popular policy.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, new public polling shows that millennials prefer that their tax dollars go to federally qualified health centers rather than abortion providers like Planned Parenthood by a 3-1 margin. Only 7 percent of millennials share the position of the Democratic Party platform that abortion should be available without any exceptions and funded by your tax dollars.

The administration is heeding the concerns of the American people. Just last month, the National Institutes of Health announced it will fund up to \$20 million to find alternatives to using human fetal tissue in research projects. The U.S. Government should end all contracts that use baby body parts. We must preserve the integrity in scientific research by protecting pregnant women and their children.

This month, I am introducing two bills to defend life. The first is the