

Madam Speaker, in just 200 days, we have accomplished so much, but rest assured, we are just getting started.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to defend the conscience of American taxpayers. Since 1973, both sides of the aisle have agreed that taxpayers should not be forced to fund the taking of an unborn child's life through abortion. This consensus was enshrined in the Hyde amendment. The Hyde amendment has saved the lives of almost 2.5 million children, including over 65,000 in my home State of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, President Biden and Congressional Democrats have decided to abandon the Hyde amendment in this year's budget. This is a grave mistake that will cost the lives of more innocent children, and therefore, it must be reversed.

Madam Speaker, let's show that this House stands with life, believes in science, and opposes the evil of abortion.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois). Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, today, we mark 200 days of the 117th Congress and 200 days of delivering for the people.

From day one, House Democrats have prioritized the needs of everyday Americans, working families, and our children. We have delivered transformative, lifesaving legislation that focuses on our recovery from this pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan has been successful in getting shots in arms, workers back to work, and money in the pockets of families, and children back to school. This was one of the biggest jolts to our health and our economy in history, and we cannot let up on our efforts.

We must build on this momentum and pass President Biden's American

Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan, and we must seize this moment, rebuild strong, and rebuild by making bold, sustained investments in our Nation and in our future.

CZECH DEPOT EXPLOSION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month, I was grateful to participate in a Congressional delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly led by Senator ROGER WICKER and Senator BEN CARDIN. It was inspiring to see the extraordinary economic advances of Estonia and Bulgaria.

In Tallinn, Estonia, we were welcomed by the dynamic Prime Minister, Kaja Kallas, and the dedicated Foreign Minister, Eva-Maria Liimets. While in Tallinn, we learned that Russian diplomats had been expelled in April across the Baltics to join the protest of the Czech Prime Minister, Andrej Babis, exposing the irrefutable evidence that two Russian GRU agents were behind the 2014 ammunition depot explosion at Vrbitice, which killed two persons.

The same two Russian agents named by the Czech Republic are suspected by British authorities for poisoning former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018. The Czech Republic has correctly demanded Russia pay for damages.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chalmers and Lori Anne Carr of Titan Farms for their annual delivery of South Carolina peaches to Capitol Hill.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. JACOBS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act. This bill would make the Hyde amendment permanent and government-wide.

Mr. Speaker, Hyde saves lives. For more than 40 years, this amendment has protected vulnerable, unborn life by preventing taxpayer dollars from funding abortions. Named after Illinois Congressman Henry Hyde, the Hyde amendment has enjoyed decades of broad, bipartisan support.

During this time the Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates the Hyde amendment has saved over 2 million lives. I am proud to stand up for vulnerable life. As the father of a beautiful two-year-old girl, I have come to appreciate the sanctity of newborn life in a profound way. We owe it to them, and to each other, to protect their lives in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE). As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1215

SUPPORTING FREEDOM-LOVING CUBANS

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, freedom-loving Cubans have taken to the streets to protest the socialist, Marxist Castro regime that has held a deadly grip over Cuba for 60 years.

Cubans are protesting to secure the blessings of liberty that now so many in this country are showing disdain for. The socialist Castro regime embraces a backward economy that prides itself on taking everything it can from the people until there is nothing left. There are no means for justice, no opportunities for success outside the bounds of tyranny, and no consideration for the God-given rights of their people.

Let this be a lesson to the world and to my socialist colleagues across the aisle. Communism does not work. There is no example in history of any modern society benefiting from Marxist rule, and any attempt to paint socialist and communist dictatorships as anything but cruel is peddling lies and fiction.

The pro-democracy demonstrations in Cuba are sending a powerful message: Communism is oppressive and denies people their basic freedom.

Cubans deserve our strong, unwavering support, and I will always stand up for freedom fighters around the world.

TAX PLAN WILL SET BACK ECONOMY

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns with the far-left tax hikes proposed by the majority.

To help pay for their partisan spending sprees, the President and Democrats in Congress have proposed to double the tax on investment and raise our business tax rate to the highest in the developed world.

On top of this, they wish to repeal the stepped-up basis, a move that will disproportionately hurt family-owned farms and businesses.

The radical tax agenda will stifle investment and slow down our economic recovery at a time when communities

across our country continue to feel the effects of the pandemic and government lockdowns.

It will also hurt American competitiveness abroad and force even more businesses and jobs overseas. Increasing taxes on Americans while prices are rising faster than they have in more than a decade isn't just irresponsible; it is dangerous.

The Democrat tax plan will hurt workers and small businesses, diminish our position as a global business leader, and set our economy back for decades to come.

VACCINATING TO STOP RISE OF DELTA VARIANT

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of vaccinations, vaccine hesitancy, and the rising rates of the COVID-19 delta variant.

For the last few months, I have traveled across my district administering vaccines to Iowans. It has been a pleasure to see my constituents and the entire country have a renewed sense of freedom and begin to return to normal.

But fully engaged living is threatened by the delta variant, which is causing increased hospitalizations and death, especially among those unvaccinated. Those vaccinated have a much milder course of disease.

It is miraculous to have three safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19 so rapidly. However, this speed of development may give some Americans pause. Therefore, it is critical to emphasize that no safety shortcuts were taken and reassure our constituents that they are safe and effective.

Decades of research informed the development of these breakthrough vaccines, and millions have been vaccinated with tremendously low risk. Given the rise in the delta variant, I would once again encourage everyone to get a vaccine as soon as possible so that we continue our path to normalcy and not go back to lockdowns and mask mandates.

This vaccine is how we get back to normal and get our lives back. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to your doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this time to wish the youngest of 10 in our family, Mari-Eleanor Martino, a happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING KATIE NAGEOTTE

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, after postponing 1 year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am excited that, on Friday, the Olympic Games in Tokyo will officially begin.

What better way to mark this occasion than by recognizing the incredible accomplishment of Katie Nageotte, who will be one of the many Olympians competing in this year's summer games.

A native of Olmsted Falls, Katie is a graduate of Olmsted Falls High School and Ashland University who will be representing our community and country in this summer's games, competing in the women's pole vault event.

Her victory at the U.S. trials in the women's pole vault event caps a 5-year campaign to reach the Olympic Games, and she joins an elite list of northeast Ohioans to qualify for the games.

I am incredibly proud of Katie for earning this opportunity to represent not only our community but the United States.

Congratulations to Katie and her family. We look forward to watching her make northeast Ohio proud.

HONORING MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN MEHRMAND

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrmand.

Mr. Mehrmand was a lieutenant general in the Imperial Iranian Air Force. Prior to the revolution in 1979, Iran and the United States were close allies. U.S. fighter jets were based in Iran, and a number of U.S. military personnel were as well. When the revolution occurred, the U.S. Embassy recommended that all Americans immediately evacuate. Mr. Mehrmand was instrumental in negotiating the evacuation of American citizens from Iran, and ultimately, nearly 5,000 Americans were successfully evacuated from the country.

Unfortunately, Mr. Mehrmand paid a very high price for that loyalty. He was accused as a traitor. He lost his property. Ultimately, he was forced to flee to the United States.

Today, Mr. Mehrmand is 92. He lives in my district in California, and he is proud to be a United States citizen.

I join my colleagues in thanking Mr. Mehrmand for his service to the people of the United States and his loyalty to the people with whom he served.

REMOVING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY IS MISGUIDED

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was in my mom's home county of Madison County last week to announce the details of my new bill, the Local Law Enforcement Protection Act, H.R. 4500.

I made this announcement standing alongside the respected men and women of our local law enforcement

departments across the region, including our great Madison County sheriff, Todd Hood.

My bill protects those who protect our communities every day by prohibiting States and localities that roll back or eliminate qualified immunity from receiving certain Federal grants.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives to defend our homes, families, and our neighborhoods. They face real danger. In 2020, 264 police officers were killed tragically in the line of duty. As of July 2021, that number already stands at 148.

As the defund the police movement goes mainstream in liberal cities and State capitals, and failed progressive policies like bail reform make our streets less safe, it is more important now than ever to stand with our law enforcement officers.

Police should always be accountable to the communities they serve, but they should never be subjected to unfair attacks or harassment simply for doing their job. Efforts to remove qualified immunity are misguided and ultimately hurt honorable officers who serve with integrity.

That is why I introduced this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Hyde amendment and urge us to be warriors for human dignity and human value.

We must cherish every person's unalienable human right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With technology today, we can look into the womb and watch the development of a baby day by day. Doctors are able to administer lifesaving care to babies before they are born. It is a miracle to witness, and it is proof that life begins at conception.

Our laws should reflect this science and the truth. For decades, my colleagues across the aisle, including President Joe Biden, agreed. I urge them to join us to protect life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: