

Born and raised in Little Rock, Director Hendrix dedicated her life to public service. From serving as a nurse, to local government, to her philanthropic endeavors, she always put our community first.

Erma spent over 15 years representing her community as part of Little Rock City's Board of Directors representing Ward 1. Known for her passion, she spent her career fighting for racial equality and greater representation in city governance.

I value having the opportunity to work alongside Director Hendrix. I am grateful to have known her for so long and so favorably, and I know that the city of Little Rock is better for the service and work of Director Erma Hendrix. God rest her soul.

#### HEARTBEATS

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today on behalf of our Nation's unborn children, children, let me remind you, with heartbeats at 6 weeks, with fingers and toes at 10 weeks, and with the ability to feel and react to pain as early as 12 weeks. For too long, our Nation's leaders have tolerated the murder of millions of our precious children through cruel and painful abortions. Madam Speaker, this cruelty and insanity must stop.

Many States have passed legislation to protect both these unborn babies and their mothers, but my Democratic colleagues are actively attempting to undermine and overturn these protections through H.R. 3755, the Abortion on Demand Until Birth Act.

In addition, the bill disregards the conscience rights of millions of Americans. An Associated Press poll released in June of this year shows that up to 66 percent of adults believe abortions should be illegal in the second trimester and up to 81 percent in the third trimester. Yet H.R. 3755 is set in direct contradiction to the beliefs of the people as it allows for full-term abortions for any reason under the bill's all-inclusive health clause.

The abortion on demand bill is murder in the first degree.

Madam Speaker, it is impossible to justify the murder of a precious child in the womb. We all know that it is wrong to take innocent life, and no amount of slick talk will make it right.

The scientific community has made great advancements through modern medicine and patient care practices to extend longevity for those who could not otherwise survive on their own, both old and young.

At the time of *Roe v. Wade*, the average life expectancy for a man was close to 68 years and for a woman 75 years. Today, the average life expectancy is 78 years for men and nearly 83 for women. These are significant increases thanks to modern medicine.

Such scientific and medical advancements have also proven viability for many infants born as early as 21 weeks gestational age, a feat that was nearly impossible at the time of *Roe v. Wade* or *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. We also now know that a heartbeat exists at 6 weeks.

While science is ever improving, the moral and ethical considerations are crystal clear: To end an innocent human life is to end a heartbeat. That is murder.

I firmly believe that life begins at conception, and speaking objectively, I ask you this: What better scientific metric to determine the existence of life than the presence of a heartbeat? You have a heartbeat, and I have a heartbeat. We both are alive. A heartbeat means life. When a heartbeat ceases, then life ceases. So when a heartbeat is present, we know there is life. When two heartbeats are present, a mom and her child, we know there are two lives.

Madam Speaker, a heartbeat is a defining evidence of life.

A small child and an aged adult alike can both wrap their minds around the fact that a heartbeat equals life, and that to end a heartbeat is to end life.

This bill, H.R. 3755, ends heartbeats, so it ends life. The Declaration of Independence says: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men . . ."

Life is the first of the unalienable rights mentioned in the Declaration of Independence. And to secure these rights, government is instituted. To protect life is our first responsibility. We cannot ignore this. We must not ignore this.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to reject H.R. 3755 and join me in standing for the sanctity of life, for the preservation of the most innocent heartbeats in America. *Soli Deo gloria*.

#### STOP PRETENDING

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today because our border is still in crisis. I rise today to bring attention to the dereliction of duty by this President occurring at our southern border. Most of all I rise to ask this: Can we all stop pretending?

Can we stop pretending that this administration deserves any benefit of the doubt, pretending it is a tough situation beyond their control, pretending that this administration, and frankly, the entire Democratic Party have any intention of solving the border crisis. Stop pretending as if this isn't purposeful, because it is.

When every single policy measure that you partake in results in more il-

legal immigration, well, then it stands to reason using the powers of deduction that maybe you want more illegal immigration. So let's stop pretending otherwise.

And while we are at it, let's also stop pretending that more than a tiny fraction of those illegally crossing our border have any valid claims to asylum whatsoever. We all know it. We all know that they are coming because it is easy and because America is a pretty great place. We all know they were trained by their drug cartel handlers to repeat certain phrases that make them eligible for the asylum process so that they will be given a bus ticket and maybe a court date which they will never show up for.

Let's stop pretending that this isn't just a giant scam, a giant abuse of our well-meaning and generous system.

And also, let's stop pretending mass migration is America's fault. Let's stop pretending to listen to outlandish claims of climate change causing migration or the tired old refrain of, well, it is American imperialistic foreign policy or whatever, and so let's just let everybody in.

And let's stop pretending that this isn't getting exceedingly dangerous for us. It is dangerous for our border agents. It is dangerous for our border communities. It is dangerous for the children being trafficked. It is dangerous for everyday Americans.

At our border communities, crime is rising. There is greater insecurity. There is a spike in COVID cases. And the migrants, who I thought my friends on the other side of the aisle claim to care about, well, they are paying thousands of dollars to smugglers to take them on an exceedingly dangerous journey that often ends in children dead, stranded in the desert, or in the Rio Grande.

□ 1115

The only people who benefit from all of this are the drug cartels. They make money off the human misery by using asylum-seeking migrants to tie down the border agents so they can move their drugs with little to no risk. These smugglers aren't just bringing your generic pot. They are bringing fentanyl, bringing enough fentanyl to kill every single American.

Finally, let's stop pretending that the Democrats' pro-open border position has anything to do with compassion or kindness. There is nothing compassionate about tent cities, nothing compassionate about children being trafficked. There is nothing compassionate about firing American workers for not getting a COVID shot, putting them out on the street while illegal immigrants flood into our country without even a COVID test and then get treated to a bus ride or a hotel at the expense of the American taxpayer. And then, they probably get hired.

And guess what? There is nothing compassionate about allowing hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to cut in front of millions of

law-abiding potential immigrants around the world. People with actual asylum claims and real persecution are told, well, they are out of luck if they can't just walk across our border. Sorry about your civil war or your religious persecution. We are out of space. The system is just too clogged up now.

Let's stop pretending about all of it. Let's start telling the truth so we can actually solve this crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### CRADLE-TO-GRAVE SOCIALISM WILL BANKRUPT OUR COUNTRY

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, from the cradle to the grave, the mission of House Democrats is a socialist transformation of America, which will bankrupt our country and make the U.S. dollar worthless, diminishing the buying power, savings, and pensions of regular Americans.

House Democrats want to fund their \$3.5 trillion spending spree by raising our taxes and increasing the debt on our children and grandchildren. After opening our southern border to allow 200,000 illegal immigrants to cross every month, they are now attempting to ram through amnesty so foreign nationals can vote in our elections.

The crisis in Del Rio, Texas, is the direct result of failed open border policies of the Biden-Harris administration, which put human traffickers and cartels in control of our border.

The Bernie Sanders spending plan was produced by socialist Democrats who have never run a business, signed a paycheck, or kept to a budget.

Our Nation's taxpayers deserve the utmost respect when it comes to our Federal budget. The Federal Government has no money, except for what they extort from us and the future of our children and grandchildren.

Fiscal responsibility is vital for a stable, strong, and long-lasting economy. Under the Biden administration, inflation continues to skyrocket and the price of everything from gas to groceries has gone up.

Gas prices are at their highest since October 2014. Fertilizer prices are the highest since the financial crisis of 2008.

Crime, especially homicide, is on the rise in our cities, where these Democrats have pushed to defund the police.

The American people do not want failed politicians who have created crises upon crises, from our borders to ruinous cities, in charge of everything and every aspect of our life. We reject the House Democrats' cradle-to-grave socialist takeover.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

You have called us, O God, and we have answered. From cities and towns across the country, with enthusiasm for a life of service and a commitment to faithful citizenship, all who labor in these hallowed halls have responded to Your summons to serve and preserve the noble ideals of this Nation.

And so we offer to You everything we are, lay before You all we hope to accomplish, and pray for what we lack: The ability to represent the concerns of our compatriots in this challenging forum of debate and decision; the resilience to maintain a grueling schedule while staying above water in the storms of frustration and animosity; the compassion for an issue or group of people, and the need to broaden that empathy to hear the voices of those with whom we do not agree; the wisdom to know when a cause is justified but the discernment to refrain if the timing isn't right; and the discipline to rise above the fray of harsh discourse.

O Lord, we pray Your guiding presence amidst the protectors and guardians of the laws of this land, the defenders of the marginalized, and the safe keepers of the virtues, freedoms, and opportunities on which this Nation was founded. May we prove worthy of Your trust in us.

In the mercy of Your name, we pray. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRANK BURSTEIN

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, just 4 months ago, I rose to remember a Montgomery County favorite, Denise Burstein, and today, with a heavy heart, I remember her husband, my friend and community leader, Frank Burstein.

Frank passed away last Saturday. Montgomery County will not be the same without his enthusiasm, his service, and his generosity.

Frank embodied service. As a young man, he proudly served in the Army Medical Unit, and even in his career as an executive, he was a local political leader and advocate for foster children.

Frank was known for his hospitality, a wonderful chef who regularly welcomed the community to his famous brunches. People would come from miles around for his signature lemon blueberry French toast, which he taught me to make.

Frank and Denise's welcoming way was felt in enthusiasm and smiles. They were two halves of the same smile.

My prayers are with his sons, Martin and Marshall, his daughter-in-law, Annie, his beloved grandson, Isaiah, and his entire family. May you and may we find comfort in knowing that Frank and Denise are together again. May their memory be a blessing.

#### CRISIS ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while the President was vacationing at his beach house, and the Border Czar Kamala Harris enjoyed a football game, our Border Patrol agents were working around the clock to address the over 12,000 migrants who illegally crossed the Del Rio International Bridge this week.

This is on top of the more than 200,000 apprehensions Border Patrol agents encountered in August, a 317 percent increase from the same time last year.

So what has changed?

The Biden administration's reckless repeal of President Trump's successful border policy and the Biden open border agenda. Even the Democratic Mayor of Del Rio, Texas, admitted that "this is beyond crisis. This is urgent. This is dire."

The President campaigned on open borders and free health care for illegal immigrants. Americans need to wake up to the socialist policies that are destroying our Nation and undermining the rule of law. The Biden experiment has not worked and will not work and it is a total failure.