

Today, women's freedoms are under attack, and the consequences will reverberate as radical Republicans continue to push their political agenda and curtail basic rights. My Democratic colleagues and I remain unwavering in our commitment to defend the legal rights of women and families to make independent decisions about their futures by safeguarding access to reproductive healthcare services.

This week, House Democrats will vote to pass H.R. 8373, the Right to Contraception Act, guaranteeing the right to obtain and use contraception as established in *Griswold v. Connecticut*.

The alarming, extremist act of judicial activism in *Dobbs v. Jackson* has created a dangerous blueprint for future attacks on our most cherished rights. As an attorney who is a strict constructionist myself, this cannot stand. In his concurring opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that in future cases the Court should consider substantive due process precedents which legalized the right for married couples to buy and use contraception without government restrictions, same-sex relationships, and marriage equality. Calling into question the constitutional right to use contraception is dangerous for American women and families, as well as men, but also has the potential to disproportionately impact women of historically marginalized communities who face health disparities at higher rates.

Access to contraception can affect all aspects of a woman's life, including educational attainment, employment opportunities, healthcare, and economic success. The Right to Contraception Act recognizes the social, political, and economic impacts on our country and takes steps to protect Americans' right to make their own decisions about their health and their families.

The Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs* further emphasizes the need to act now, to protect access to contraception, and women's right to make reproductive health decisions. Contraception is essential to the health and rights of individuals. Women deserve the right to make informed decisions about their health, family planning, and future. It is 2022. We should not still be fighting for rights that are essential to basic health and bodily autonomy. Pass this legislation.

□ 1030

NATIONAL PENNSYLVANIA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize today, July 20, as National Pennsylvania Day.

Since the inception of our Nation, Pennsylvania has played a trans-

formative role in United States history. Pennsylvania's nickname, the Keystone State, represents the central role we played in shaping our Nation.

Pennsylvania was the site of many important battles and military milestones, like the Battle of Valley Forge in the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.

Pennsylvania is the home to a lot of firsts, including our Nation's first capital, Philadelphia; the first American flag sewn by Betsy Ross; and the first commercial oil well in my district, giving birth to the modern petroleum industry.

Pennsylvania has a proud history of American craftsmanship and work ethic, from our steel mills and coal mines to our farmland and forests.

Madam Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, I am encouraged each and every day by the industrious spirit of our residents as we continue to build a bright path forward for our Commonwealth and our country.

Happy Pennsylvania Day. I am proud to be from the great Keystone State.

LATE-TERM ABORTION SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Democrats are advancing an agenda of abortion on demand. Last week, House Democrats passed their radical abortion on demand until birth act, falsely named as the Women's Health Protection Act, and the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act.

Both bills go much further than codifying *Roe v. Wade* and would legalize abortion for all 9 months of pregnancy across the country, while undermining the health and safety of women. In advancing this legislation that would continue the murder of innocent unborn, Speaker PELOSI has confirmed Democrats' radical agenda by saying abortion is "... core to who we are. It is about freedom."

Madam Speaker, 80 percent of Americans believe that late-term abortion should be illegal.

IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT ON OUR MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, in a bipartisan way, this body stood up and served those who serve in uniform, those who sacrificed for this great Nation in the United States Armed Forces.

I was proud, on Thursday, to join the majority of folks in this Chamber in passing H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act. I was proud to support this legislation, and I contributed significant legislative language, too.

The bill extends a prohibition preventing dishonorable discharge for servicemembers refusing COVID vaccines, while also extending a prohibition on COVID vaccine mandates for Department of Defense contractors.

The NDAA authorizes annual funding for the Department of Defense and defense-related programs at other Federal agencies. The NDAA authorized earned pay raises for our American

troops. Included in the NDAA was my legislation from H.R. 7144, the Military Housing Transparency and Accountability Act, that directs the Secretary of Defense to develop a centralized military housing feedback tool for members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. This will allow these families to identify, rate, and compare housing options. Our military families have earned the right to safe housing conditions.

Additionally, it included provisions requiring the Department of Defense to report the dollar amount spent on foreign fuel that is used; report on the impact on low recruitment and retention, and the impact on servicemembers' mental health as a result of that; and finally, to report the impact of inflation, which is impacting every American family today.

This report specifically is asking the question: What is the impact of inflation—which is out of control, a record high—on our military families?

ABORTION STORY

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the Supreme Court's destructive decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, women across this country have shared their stories. From Facebook to the dinner table to streets in protest, women have shared the details of the deeply personal and often difficult moments in which they exercised their right to choose.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of a constituent of mine named Misty.

His name was Miles. I knew something was wrong at 12 to 16 weeks. At 20 weeks, it was too late. I spent a terrible night in the ER hemorrhaging. Miles survived that incident and there was still a heartbeat. The next day was traumatic at an ultrasound.

I had lost so much fluid and Miles was being smashed. They said that he wasn't getting the blood he needed to his kidneys and other places. They literally sent me home to wait for him to die. There was still a heartbeat at 20 weeks, but I was informed that Miles could not live to full term and that I would have to deliver conventionally if I had made it to 24 weeks.

The news continued to get worse, and I waited. That was the longest week of my life. I waited through fear, depression, anxiety, and immense sadness. At the end of that week, I decided, with my fetal medicine specialist, to terminate the pregnancy. It was one of the toughest decisions I have ever faced.

The trauma that I would have experienced by delivering a dead baby, Miles, would have been more than I could handle. Going to the doctor every other day and seeing him dying was enough to make me realize this.

Misty closes by saying: We are not careless, immoral, or monsters.

Madam Speaker, I stand with Misty, and I stand with her right to make her decision. The trauma and pain that women like Misty face in these moments should be met with care, compassion, and the right to privacy.

But instead, my colleagues on the right would rather inflict more trauma during what can be an extremely challenging moment in a woman's life: forcing them to cross State lines to access abortion; forcing them to give birth when it threatens their health, their mental health, and their financial well-being; forcing them to defend miscarriages in front of a court of law; forcing young girls to carry a pregnancy to term that is the result of a sexual assault or rape.

We cannot become complicit in the destructiveness of these extreme policies. Behind each pro-life policy are the very real and very personal stories of women whose lives will be forever turned upside down. I thank Misty for her story, but she shouldn't have to share it.

For 50 years, the law of the land respected individual choice and privacy. In Nevada, our law still reflects that today, but tomorrow may look different.

National Republicans stand ready to ban and restrict abortion nationwide, even in States like Nevada where the right to choose is protected by law. Just last week, on this very same House floor, they lined up in droves to talk about it.

The reality of a nationwide abortion ban is far more likely than you may think. I am not going to stand by and watch, and that is why I was so proud to vote for the Women's Health Protection Act, and, equally, to vote in the next few days on the Right to Contraception Act.

Madam Speaker, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect your right to choose.

SOCIALIST SPENDING

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, on many different occasions I have come to this Chamber to point out exactly how we arrived at this moment where we are experiencing record-breaking inflation. Each time, congressional Democrats' desire to recklessly spend trillions of taxpayer dollars continues to be the answer.

Here I am again, as the House prepares to vote on yet another spending bill costing hundreds of billions of dollars filled with socialist wish list items that increases Federal spending by double-digit and triple-digit percentage increases in some cases.

I, of course, will vote "no," not only because it increases the size of our government by increasing spending on non-defense programs by 14 percent, but because it also fails to include the Hyde amendment, which is a long-

standing bipartisan agreement that protects taxpayer dollars for being used to fund abortions.

Overall, the bill would increase the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency by 20 percent, increase the budget for general government activities by 17 percent, and include a 10 percent increase for the Food and Drug Administration—the very same department that botched the baby formula shortage.

This funding bill rewards bad behavior by giving funding increases to departments that have failed the American people. It encourages illegal immigration. It discourages increasing our domestic energy output by restricting offshore oil and gas activities, and it fails to fund our national defense priorities like the sea-launched nuclear cruise missile.

It has been almost 2 years of complete Democratic control of government. Instead of addressing the root causes of the crisis Democrats created, this bill doubles down on their failed socialist agenda. Tennesseans are fed up with the out-of-control spending here in Washington. Americans all across the country are fed up with it, too.

NATIONAL HEROES DAY

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the devastating events of July 20, 2012, in Aurora, Colorado.

I represented Aurora, Colorado, on this day 10 years ago when in an Aurora theater 12 lives were taken and 70 were wounded, and an entire community was scarred and traumatized.

Today marks a very painful day for our community, and my heart aches with those who lost a loved one that day and will forever carry a hole in their heart.

Yet, in this tragedy we saw incredible heroism—those who carried the wounded to safety and the first responders and medical teams whose tireless efforts saved lives.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the 12 who lost their lives that night:

AJ Boik, 18;

Jesse Childress, 29;

Gordon Cowden, 51, whose two teenage children were in the theater when he was killed;

Jessica Ghawi, 24;

Micayla Medek, 23;

Veronica Moser-Sullivan, 6, whose mother was shot in the chest and miscarried a week after the attack;

Rebecca Wingo, 32; and

Alex Sullivan, who was celebrating his 27th birthday and was one week away from his first wedding anniversary.

This also includes the four men who died that night while saving others:

Jonathan Blunk, 26;

John Larimer, 27;

Matt McQuinn, 27; and

Alex Teves, 24.

In the face of unspeakable violence and tragedy, these men proved to be everyday heroes, sacrificing their own lives to save others.

Gun violence rips through our community, leaves trauma with families and friends of victims, the medical staff and first responders, and the entire community for a lifetime. It is a trauma and a scar too many communities in Colorado and too many communities across the country have faced.

As our country grapples with incidents of violence, chaos, and tragedy, it is the courageous acts and selfless spirit of the helpers and heroes among us that we remember.

During our darkest days, there are always everyday heroes who answer the call to save lives and help their community. They provide light and hope for the future. The same heroic acts we saw in Aurora, Colorado, 10 years ago have been reflected in other tragedies as gun violence continues in our communities, including in the recent tragedies in Highland Park, Illinois; Uvalde, Texas; and Buffalo, New York.

Heroes can come in many different forms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw heroes in medical professionals, frontline workers and essential personnel, such as truck drivers, letter carriers, food and grocery workers, teachers, small business owners, and researchers.

That is why I am, once again, introducing a resolution, alongside my friend and colleague Congressman JASON CROW, to designate today, July 20, as National Heroes Day.

As Mr. Rogers famously said: "You will always find people who are helping."

In the midst of our dark days, let's focus on lifting up and recognizing the helpers and the heroes whose actions, big and small, make a difference in the lives of friends, coworkers, neighbors, and the larger community.

□ 1045

TELLING OUR STORY ON THE RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last month, I have been overwhelmed with powerful testimonies from my colleagues, family, and friends about their reproductive health journeys.

They have shared their fears and concerns for their daughters, granddaughters, and nieces now living in a post-Roe America. They offered firsthand, intimate accounts detailing some of their personal and sometimes painful experiences, wanting me to know