

their gender because you cannot change your gender.

My bill will deem aliens who are determined to have performed gender-affirming care on a minor as ineligible to receive visas or be admitted into the United States.

We need to take a strong stand in the United States of America that we do not abuse our children or sexualize them in any way.

This is an important bill that must be passed, and I will give you some examples.

In 2021, there was a father in Texas who lost custody of his twin 7-year-old sons because he attempted to stop one of the boys from transitioning his gender. The mother began transitioning the boy when he was only 2 years old and then tried to enroll him in a pediatric gender clinic at age 5. This child, this young boy, needs to be protected, and his father has the rights to do it. They didn't give him his rights.

Last summer, Boston Children's Hospital released videos promoting gender dysphoria and offering sterilization, castration, and mutilation of children. These videos not only explained its genital mutilation surgeries, but they were also promoting these surgeries to kids and their parents. By the way, this is for profit.

Also, just recently, Jamie Reed, who worked at one of more than 100 pediatric gender clinics across the United States, publicly came out to discuss the atrocities happening to children at these gender clinics.

When a female takes testosterone, the profound and permanent effects of the hormone can be seen in a matter of months. Voices drop, beards sprout, body fat is redistributed, sexual interest explodes, aggression increases, and mood can be unpredictable. One of the side effects includes sterility.

As a matter of fact, after only 4 to 5 years of taking testosterone, there have been many young women under the age of 18 that have had to have hysterectomies because of the damage done inside of them.

Even more horrific is the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, signed a bill into law to provide refuge for trans kids and their families. This bill will protect trans kids and their families that flee to California from States like Alabama, Texas, or Idaho, or any other State criminalizing the parents of trans kids for allowing them to receive gender-affirming care.

My bill will protect these children and stop a State like California and the monsters and the groomers and the child predators in that State that look to damage them before they ever grow up.

There are many States that are working hard to protect kids, but we don't have enough States doing it. That is why it is the responsibility of Republicans in Congress to protect children.

This is imperative.

We know what the left is trying to do, and we should have listened to

them when they told us. Remember the San Francisco men's choir actually singing a song announcing that they are coming for our children? That is a threat that we should not ignore.

We have had enough with drag queen shows in elementary schools and middle schools and high schools. We have had enough of drag queens gyrating in front of children in the public square.

These groomers and child predators must be stopped because they are sexualizing children for profit in a multibillion-dollar medical industry that looks to grow and grow. Something must be done to protect the sacred identity of children because God made children and God made all of us, male and female, in His image, and God doesn't make mistakes.

I urge every single Republican and all Members of Congress to cosponsor my bill. We must get it passed. This isn't just a Republican issue. This is an issue across the board. All voters agree.

UNION POWER IS DIMINISHING

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the PRO Act.

My family's story is an American one. A union one. It is the story of how a good-paying union job gave a family of immigrants and first-generation Americans a pathway out of poverty and into the middle class.

Sadly, stories like mine are harder to find these days. Unions have seen their power diminished as the American Dream grows further and further out of reach for the average working family. That is why I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act because it is time to make that dream a reality again.

The PRO Act will empower Oregonians and all Americans to exercise their right to organize, hold employers accountable for violating their rights, and participate in free and fair union elections.

This landmark legislation will go a long way toward protecting the most vulnerable workers who courageously showed up for their communities even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. From teachers to nurses to home care workers, these people—many of whom are women and women of color—are everyday heroes, and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

□ 1230

In 2022, America's unionization rate fell to its lowest on record, but in Oregon, we reached new heights.

Our State is home to 318,000 proud unionized workers, making up about 18 percent of our workforce. In fact, we are now the fourth most unionized State in America, something I know Oregonians and we all should be proud of.

In the face of record-breaking corporate profits and a growing wealth gap, workers in Oregon have united to champion a deeply American cause: economic opportunity for all.

From Starbucks to Fred Meyer, Nabisco to Burgerville, working Oregonians from all walks of life are coming together to say we have had enough. We have had enough of corporate greed and union busting. We have had enough of wage stagnation and dangerous work environments. We have had enough of fighting tooth and nail for the benefits that we deserve. We have had enough.

Now, the burden falls on us. As lawmakers, we have a duty to answer the rising call for change. We have a duty to not only protect good-paying jobs but to expand that opportunity for everyone because, at the end of the day, America is only as strong as its middle class.

Let's pass the PRO Act and show the world how strong we really are.

PROTECTING THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY

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

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I start by saying I am honored to be the co-chair of the Congressional Family Caucus.

We have seen the decline of the traditional family for many years, and it is not by chance this has occurred. We have come to a point in society that the restoration of the family is of the utmost importance.

Russell Kirk wrote about the problem this way: "We cannot feel any affection for our country unless we first love those near to us. The conservative feels that the family is the natural source and core of any good society; that when the family decays, a dreary collectivism is sure to supplant it; and that the principal instrument of moral instruction, ordinary education, and satisfactory economic life always must remain the family."

Kirk goes on to say: "Now very powerful forces are at work to diminish the influence of the family among us, and even to destroy the family for all purposes except mere generation. Some of these forces are material and unintentional: . . . cheap amusements and transportation, which encourage members of the family to spend nearly all their time outside the family circle; the assumption of the old educational functions of the family by public schools . . ."

He continues: "But other forces hostile to the family are not merely impersonal and unconscious; they are more or less deliberate, and they may be countered by intelligent action in the social and educational and political spheres. The chief of these ominous forces is the deliberate desire of certain people to have the political state assume nearly all the responsibilities

which the family once possessed. This movement is the most thorough and disastrous form of collectivism.

“The shrewd totalitarian mentality knows well the powers of intimate kinship and religious devotion for keeping alive in a population values and incentives which might well, in the future, serve as the basis of resistance. Thus to emancipate each member, and especially the younger members, from the family was an absolute necessity. And this planned spiritual alienation from kinship was accomplished, not only through the negative processes of spying and informing, but through the sapping of the functional foundations of family membership and through the substitution of new and attractive political roles for each of the social roles embodied in the family structure. . . . What the totalitarian must have for the realization of his design is a spiritual and cultural vacuum.”

He goes on to list some of the deliberate techniques of the mass state for undermining the family.

Number one is: “Taking the instruction of children entirely away from their parents by the official adoption of theories that prescribe ‘educating the whole child’ in the state schools, with a corresponding depreciation of parental intelligence and rights.”

Number two is: “Creating ‘youth organizations’ to take young people quite out of the sphere of the family in their leisure hours and to indoctrinate them in the ideology of the mass state.”

The third is: “Abolishing the inheritance of family property, through confiscatory inheritance taxes or through income tax policies that leave small margin for family saving.”

The fourth one is: “Planned encouragement of divorce, ‘sexual freedom,’ and ‘deprivatization of women,’ through positive legislation or official propaganda, with the aim of weakening the bonds of affection within the family that offer a strong barrier to the wishes of the total state.”

“The traditional family—which, like many old-fashioned things, is an indispensable thing—gives us those roots without which we all would be just so many lonely little atoms of humanity, unprincipled and at the mercy of some iron political domination.”

Do you know when this little book was written, Mr. Speaker? That was written in 1957.

Kirk’s insights about family, the importance of private property, education, religion, and a dozen other subjects not only remain completely sound but now seem downright prophetic.

We were being warned about the attacks on the family unit more than 60 years ago. That is why, as chosen leaders, we have the responsibility to protect the sanctity of the traditional family because marriage and family are institutions unique to human beings among all of God’s creation.

In modern-day wording by the author Tim Clinton in a book from 2021, he says this: “Suffice it to say that the

deterioration of the American family is the source of nearly every symptom of cultural decline, from criminal activity to plunging academic performances, from damaged mental health to poor physical health, from rising poverty to shredded social networks.”

HONORING JACK HOLDER

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege today of honoring Jack Holder, who passed away on February 24, 2023, at the age of 101.

Jack was a constituent and a U.S. Navy veteran of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, Guadalcanal, and dozens upon dozens of missions in support of the Allied Forces during World War II.

Born Joseph Norman Holder on December 13, 1921, Jack was raised in a farming family in Gunter, Texas. Jack’s father served in the trenches of World War I, and his uncle flew crop dusters over the family farm.

With that heritage, it was only natural that combat aviation was a fit for Jack when he joined the U.S. Navy on April 24, 1940, at 18 years old.

Jack attended boot camp and trained as an aviation machinist and mechanic in San Diego. He was then assigned to a flying boat squadron based on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Jack recalled how, soon after he lined up for roll call that fateful Sunday morning, the first bomb was dropped on Pearl Harbor only about 100 yards from him.

He wrote how he heard “the screaming aircraft with the rising sun insignia and loud explosions,” and how, “as I looked up, I saw a plane circle and head straight for us, so we jumped in a nearby ditch.”

Jack never forgot that moment, seeing the face of the pilot, hearing the roar of the plane’s engine, and the sight of his guns aimed right at him. Nor did he ever forget the prayer he offered: “God, don’t let me die in this ditch.”

Thankfully, Jack was spared, and that ditch would become a makeshift machine gun nest that he would man for the next 3 days.

After the attack at Pearl Harbor, Jack flew missions in support of Hawaii and Midway. At Midway, Jack’s aircraft was the second to spot the Japanese fleet, but his was the first to transmit the fleet’s position clearly to the USS *Yorktown*.

Jack’s crew would later fly 48 missions in support of the Solomon Islands campaign, including at Guadalcanal. Jack then transitioned to a Navy variant of the B-24, performing in 56 anti-sub patrols in the English Channel and assisting in sinking a German submarine.

In total, Jack flew over 100 missions and was one of the select few who flew combat missions in both the European and Pacific theaters.

For his brave service, he was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and received six Air Medals, a Presidential citation, and six commendation medals. Jack was honorably discharged in 1948 and would go on to become a pilot and an aviation engineer.

My office honored Jack several years ago at my Salute to Veterans event celebrating Veterans Day. I have heard over the years from constituents and veterans who attended the event that the retelling of Jack’s courageous acts during and after the attack on Pearl Harbor formed a lasting impression that will remain in their hearts and minds forever.

Jack, you were more than a constituent. You were a hero, a patriot, and a good friend. You gave so much to preserve this Nation in the face of tyranny. Your love for these United States, our Constitution, and our freedom were an inspiration to so many, and I pray that future generations will appreciate and follow your example.

Fair winds and following seas, my friend. You will never be forgotten.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

O Lord, our God, we look to You, to the mountains You have formed, to the heavens where You dwell, and still we find ourselves asking, where does our help come from? Sometimes when we don’t look in Your direction at all, the answers we so desperately look for are that much more elusive.

O maker of heaven and Earth, remind us again that our help comes from You. You will not let our steps slip when our path is difficult. You will stay awake with us in the anxiety of our sleeplessness.

Be our shade in the heat of this day: the heat of argument, the fever of illness, the firestorms of hatred.

Keep us from all harm that threatens us: the hurt from an ill-meaning word, the dangers of public service, the injury of our own forms of self-destruction.

Watch over us this day. In the comings and goings from meetings to meetings and in the travel that brings us