

The authors of these amendments are not set on just letting the reversal of Roe sit and having States make their own decisions. The authors of these amendments are from Alabama and Texas, which ban abortion, including in the case of rape or incest.

Why is this important? It is important because we need to hear what people are telling us. They are telling us that they will not stop with the reversal of Roe that happened a year ago. They will not stop when States like Michigan organize to make sure we have protections for women who want abortions. They want every single American, starting with our servicemembers, to live under the same rules that they choose in their States. We need to hear what they are telling us and act accordingly. They are choosing politics over our women in uniform, choosing politics in the Senate over our national security.

So, please, I have never in my life, as someone who served in the CIA, who served in the Pentagon, thought about voting against this bill. I believe in it. It is about paying our military and getting them what they need. Please keep your culture war baggage out of national security.

#### THE ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY AGENDA

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues in the Senate to pass the Lower Energy Costs Act, otherwise known as H.R. 1.

The House passed H.R. 1 on March 30, but like so many other of our bills that we have sent over to the Senate, it seems like they fall into a black hole, never to be heard of or talked about again.

What does H.R. 1 do? Well, I am glad you asked. H.R. 1 reforms the permitting process, the permitting process not only to build out domestic production here in the U.S. but reforms the process allowing us to drill for oil and gas here in America.

In short, it stops the radical, anti-American energy agenda that the Biden administration has been pushing that is making us dependent on foreign countries. It reverses that, and it makes us energy independent again.

Here is a fact for you. The national price for gasoline has not been under \$3 a gallon since March of 2021. Now, you contrast that with the Trump administration when the price of gas never even reached \$3 a gallon.

It is this war on American energy that all started when the Biden administration revoked the permits for the Keystone pipeline and then halted all permits on new oil and gas drilling in the U.S.

It is this government overreach, these excess regulations, that are hurting the American families out there, let alone harming our national secu-

rity. That is why the Lower Energy Costs Act reverses all of that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues over in the Senate to get off the pickleball court, get back in the Chamber, do your job, and pass H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act.

□ 1045

#### ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR OUR SERVICEMEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to fight for the fundamental rights of servicewomen and military families as they come under attack by the extreme Members of this legislative body.

When our servicemen and -women joined the Armed Forces prior to the Dobbs decision last June, they did so with the understanding that they and their families would receive comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services regardless of where they were stationed. That includes, what was a constitutionally guaranteed right at the time most joined, abortion care, no matter the State in which their base was located.

There are now 16 States that restrict access to abortion care at 16 weeks or less. Just this week, Iowa passed a 6-week ban. The servicewomen and military families serving in every one of those States are now facing a completely different healthcare landscape than when they signed up to serve.

According to one study, women in States with abortion bans are nearly three times more likely to die during pregnancy, childbirth, or soon after giving birth. These are the conditions our servicewomen and military families are facing when they are assigned to serve on military bases across this country.

In fact, since the Dobbs decision last year, 46 percent of servicemembers no longer have access to abortion care.

We can state fact after fact about the disturbing health outcomes for women in certain States or the scope of this issue after Roe v. Wade was overturned.

Today, I want to go beyond the numbers and share the personal and human impact of these anti-abortion laws.

In Texas, Amanda Zurawski was 18 weeks pregnant when her water broke, putting her at high risk for developing a life-threatening infection. Doctors told Amanda that her life was in danger and the fetus was going to die. The doctors could not provide the medical care she needed because their hands were tied by Texas law.

Because she was denied an abortion, Amanda eventually developed sepsis and nearly died. Her ability to get pregnant in the future may be damaged. Amanda survived and testified before the United States Senate in

April about this harrowing experience where the laws of her home State of Texas nearly killed her.

Around 120,000 servicemembers are currently serving in Texas alone. On top of that number, think of the number of family members living there with them. Our servicemembers sign up to serve our country with the understanding that one day they may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice. No servicemember should have to accept a reality where they could die as a result of the State laws where they are stationed.

In the wake of the Dobbs decision, the Department of Defense recognized that abortion is a time-sensitive procedure and access should not be delayed for members or military families. They moved swiftly to put in place policies that ensure servicewomen living in highly restrictive States could travel to another State to receive the healthcare they need. This is the bare minimum our government can do to support and protect the women who signed up to serve our Nation.

That is why I offered an amendment to this year's NDAA to codify this basic policy. My amendment was rejected, and instead, the majority in this House is moving forward with Representative RONNY JACKSON's amendment that does the exact opposite.

This extremist, anti-healthcare, anti-servicemember amendment is dangerous and must be defeated.

Throughout the entire NDAA process, from the markup to the current consideration by the House, far right Members of this legislative body have tried to use the defense budget—a historically bipartisan, must-pass piece of legislation—to force their extreme agenda on our servicemembers and our country.

They are attacking servicewomen, LGBTQ+ servicemembers, immigrant servicemembers, and more. Why are they using the defense budget for this?

Because they know they can't get these highly unpopular policies passed otherwise. America is not on their side.

We cannot let them play politics with our national security. As I stand here before you, every flag officer promotion is being held up by Senator TUBERVILLE to promote his extreme rightwing assault on women. A gentleman who was voted into office by less than 1.5 percent of the Nation is now holding our national security hostage.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty and responsibility to stand up and support our military and to ensure they have the resources and healthcare they need to do their job and defend our Nation. I will never back down from that duty, and I know my colleagues speaking here today won't either.

#### NONCITIZENS VOTING IN D.C.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that the constitutional right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, and it is a right solely afforded to our citizens.

It is a basic concept, but the D.C. Council needs to be reminded of this. The District of Columbia holds a unique status as a Federal district, and the Constitution outlines that Congress is responsible for its governance.

Without the proper oversight of Congress, it has spiraled into crisis. Crime rates are soaring. Our public schools have suffered significant setbacks due to the prolonged closures and numerous buildings that stand vacant, casting a shadow of neglect over our city.

In the face of these issues, it is disheartening to witness the D.C. Council prioritize a bill that aims to grant voting rights to individuals who are not citizens of the United States of America.

This effort undermines the very foundation of our democracy. Consider the potential consequences of such a law. Washington, D.C., is a hub for various foreign organizations and embassies, some of which hold interests that run very counter to those of the United States and are not invested in the long-term well-being of our country.

By providing voting rights to non-citizens, we open the door for foreign agents and adversaries to influence local elections held in our Nation's capital. Imagine that, the D.C. Council is trying to extend the right to vote to employees of Vladimir Putin and to employees of President Xi and the CCP. This is a legitimate threat to the integrity of our democratic institutions.

Granting noncitizens the right to vote in local elections sets a dangerous precedent, especially put into context with President Biden's illegal immigration crisis.

Allowing this law to stand would open the flood gates to noncitizens to influence elections across the Nation. We have already seen this policy from Democrats in New York, and I was proud to lead the fight to successfully stop that in court. We must do the same with this policy in D.C.

For those reasons, I was proud to support H.R. 192 in the House Oversight Committee hearing yesterday to reverse the D.C. Council's disastrous policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in sending a clear message back to them that citizens' voices matter and that we are committed to safeguarding the integrity of our democratic process for generations to come.

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION IS A NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE

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

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to discuss my amendment to the

fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, Rules Committee amendment No. 778.

My amendment is very simple. It would reinvest \$157 billion from our defense budget into our public education system.

Many of my colleagues may balk at that number. However, I remind everyone that we spend more on our national defense than the next 10 countries combined. We are secure as a nation in our military might because we have consistently supported the military industrial complex.

Where we have neglected mightily is another pillar of our democracy, which is our education system and our public school system.

As we continue to neglect our public schools, we are harming our most precious and most vulnerable resource, which is our Nation's children. Historically, this neglect is well-documented from redlining communities, underfunding public housing, underfunding green spaces, and underfunding schools in historically marginalized communities.

Before coming to Congress, I had the pleasure and privilege of working in our public schools for 20 years. I served as an elementary school teacher in the South Bronx before becoming a high school guidance counselor and dean of students, where I served for 3½ years.

Realizing that our schools weren't doing enough to unlock the unlimited potential of our kids, I wrote a proposal and opened up a public middle school in the northeast Bronx, where I served for 10½ years as its principal.

Our mission as a school was simple: Listen to our students. Listen to our families. Respond to the community's needs because that is what is necessary to unlock the magic, magnificence, and brilliance of our kids. I scoured the Earth to find additional grants and resources to bring into our school.

We didn't just invest in traditional curriculum, we invested in the holistic development of our kids. Now, what does that mean?

That means that we made sure that we focused on language arts, we focused on mathematics, we focused on science, but we also focused on STEM and STEAM, music, the arts, play, gym, mental health supports, food security, adult education, and everything to ensure the full development of our students and support for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say to the House Chamber and to America, education, I argue, is the number one national security issue in our country. Because of historic miseducation, separation, and segregation across race and class, we continue to have these battles rooted in sexism, racism, and discrimination. We continue to have an economy that doesn't work for all Americans. When we invest in education, we invest in shared prosperity from rural America to urban America and everything in between.

Imagine a Nation where every single child, regardless of learning style,

background, or race had access and opportunity to the American Dream.

When we invest in education, we have better healthcare, economic, and obviously, education outcomes. We deal with the issue of public safety. We deal with the issue of mass shooting. We deal with the issue of mass incarceration.

Invest in our children. Invest in our schools. Let us stop neglecting this critical area. We need to invest in this space in order to save our democracy and take it to the next level.

#### PIERCE COUNTY LADY BEARS GOLF TEAM

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pierce County High School Lady Bears golf team for winning the State Class AA championship on May 22, 2023.

This remarkable achievement makes the Lady Bears back-to-back State champions after winning a Class AAA championship last year.

This year's championship was held on the team's home course, the Okefenokee Country Club Golf Course.

Sophomore Mackenzie Connell was the first Lady Bear to come in with the remarkable score of 1 over 73, followed by senior Maggie Sapp, junior Lily Spivey, and sophomore Addyson Walker.

In Class AA, the two lowest scores count for the team, which gave the Lady Bears an impressive 30-stroke lead over the second-place team.

Mackenzie Connell finished in first place for the Class AA tournament, with all four members finishing in the top 10.

Again, I congratulate the Pierce County Lady Bears golf team on their championship, and I wish them well in their future endeavors on and off the golf course.

□ 1100

#### HONORING DANA WRIGHT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dana Wright. Mrs. Wright was an educator and impacted many children's lives in Georgia's First District. She concluded her distinguished 33 years of teaching while serving as principal of Ebenezer Elementary School.

She was born and raised in Statesboro, going on to be a Georgia Southern alumni and a charter member of Alpha Omicron Pi. She was also a valued member of the Delta Kappa Gamma professional educators society.

When she wasn't teaching, she was cheering on the Eagles at football or basketball games or spending time with the Statesboro crew, her lifelong friends, Leah, Pam, and Amy.

Mrs. Wright was dedicated to improving her community through her passion for education, and her impact will be felt for many years to come.