

have to endure the anguish and separation and the uncertainty that Hila, her mother, and other families have experienced.

Bring them home now.

□ 1730

#### APPRECIATING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LLOYD AUSTIN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to register my sincere appreciation to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin for his lifetime of exemplary service to our Nation in the U.S. military. I wish him a speedy recovery from his recent successful surgery.

Critics who took the first occasion to swing at him obviously have no self-control, no discretion, and no understanding of what a military officer at his level endures.

From his hospital bed, Secretary Austin expertly orchestrated an American-led strike against Houthi terrorists who threaten global commerce and put American lives at risk through their continued assault on civilian ships in the Red Sea.

Let us remain steadfast in our Nation's strategic interests at a most challenging time globally.

Mr. Speaker, if you wish to be constructive, work with Members to serve on a bipartisan basis on our Defense committees. Address your concerns through proper channels.

Why air ill-informed grievances on social media or cable news?

Team America must remain steadfast and of united purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Secretary Austin for his service.

#### OPPOSING THE GOP'S ANTIABORTION LEGISLATION

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the GOP's two anti-choice bills which are going to be on the House floor this week.

These two bills, like so much of the House GOP's legislation, claim to support women and our communities while doing the exact opposite through a thinly veiled attempt to further restrict and stigmatize abortion as they meanwhile work to gut access to reproductive care all across this country.

These policies are so unpopular that they are now hiding them in education bills like the ones that they are bringing to the floor this week, as nearly three dozen of our House Republican colleagues are now trying to walk back their support for national abortion bans.

Be that as it may, the American people are not fooled. Do not be fooled by

these bills. Our reproductive rights are under attack, and these two bills are part of that attempt to gut the rights of women.

That is why I will not only be voting "no" but hell no to these bills.

#### CHOOSING LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Republicans are doing important work to support pregnant women and mothers. As thousands of people across the Nation join together this week to promote their pro-life cause, we are grateful for the chance to do our part on the legislative level and bring two critical bills to the floor, the Pregnant Students' Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

We are also continuing to hold the Biden administration accountable for their policy failures at the southern border. Time and time again we are up here talking about this. We are visiting the border. We are, as the House GOP, intently focused on making some what should be very simple fixes to be able to reduce the ability for the cartels to run the border and to set so many people up for failure with this entire topic. We are going to continue to sound this alarm.

Since President Biden has taken office, there have been 8 million illegal crossings nationwide and over 6.7 million encounters at the southern border. It is unacceptable, and we just passed a resolution denouncing the administration's open border policies that are threatening the safety of our communities.

These are important items and important legislative topics. We have several colleagues of mine here to share their thoughts on this approach.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for the first remarks of the evening.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. MOORE of Utah, for his efforts here today and certainly to all of my colleagues for having an exchange and conversation that I think is vital for our country.

It is important that we always examine what is taking place across America, what is appropriate for the Federal Government to do, not to do, and how best to do what is good for the Amer-

ican people within certainly the Constitution and its parameters.

There is a program called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF. Many caseworkers across America are familiar with TANF, and beneficiaries are, as well.

As far as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, it has come about that the administration is excluding various women in need of care for their pregnancy if they seek care or conversations within the delivery method of a pregnancy center. I find this disturbing.

I have been inspired, actually, by the work that these pregnancy centers do in meeting the needs of women. If a woman finds herself in a crisis pregnancy, if they present information and they ultimately offer care and a friendship, if you will, to a person in need to make decisions in their interests, certainly the interests of a little one, then the administration excludes this care.

I think it is important to note that it is one thing to be pro-life and it is quite another to make sure that a child is cared for and receives what they need for nourishment and care, hopefully with the mother and hopefully, with the father, as well.

As we sort out all of these policies that we see coming and going here through this institution and through Congress in general, I think it is vital that we certainly uphold the purposes of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in making sure that those in need receive the resources that they need and that they would select.

I would say that the administration's policies of excluding pregnancy centers is actually restricting a young mother, a prospective mother, from information and approaches that they would prefer to have.

So as we look at all of TANF and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, I hope that given the fact that we allow States much latitude in carrying out what they think they need to do with these tax dollars that flow through the Federal Government but ultimately from taxpayers, I think it is absolutely incumbent upon us to make sure that those dollars end up where they need to go and can be expected to make a positive difference.

This is a very reasonable proposition.

As a Federal policymaker, as these dollars flow out across America, I believe that we would expect those dollars to be wisely spent.

For the critics of pregnancy centers, I urge all of them to visit a pregnancy center themselves. These pregnancy centers exist all across America in communities small and large. I have been very impressed hearing from the clients themselves of how they appreciated the care that they found through the pregnancy centers and that they had someone to walk with them through a very difficult moment in life, perhaps, and also taking a difficult moment in life and realizing that that can become a very triumphant moment, as well.

I certainly urge my colleagues to support our legislation later this week so that pregnant women will have access to information that they would select themselves and that we can honor those options that these expectant mothers should have along the way and that the Federal Government would not stand in the way of an expectant mother receiving information and the care that they would choose to have.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Mr. MOORE of Utah, for holding this Special Order that I think is vital for our country and certainly vital to the future of America.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I joined the gentleman last week at our legislative markup on this exact topic. The point we were trying to make is in this situation, particularly with TANF dollars, we need to be able to provide more care and stretch those dollars to support as many situations as possible.

This is an unneeded rule. It is targeted at groups that are trying to do right by their communities and support women going through very difficult situations as best as they can.

So continuing, as we have been doing these Special Orders, Mr. Speaker, we have had an overwhelming number of individuals, particularly from Texas, as the border issue continues to just rage on affecting those communities acutely, and other States are becoming a border State because of it.

Our Representatives from Texas are so passionate about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the 14th District of Texas (Mr. WEBER) to give a message on both the border and a pro-life message.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am going to start with what it means when we talk about being pro-life.

Mr. Speaker, let this sink in: 65,464,760 precious babies have been killed in abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973.

Mr. Speaker, I have three children, eight grandchildren, and even a great-granddaughter.

As a Christian and as a father of those three children and a grandfather of those eight, the issue of abortion is extremely personal to me. Every single unborn child is a human life wonderfully made and worth protecting.

I can tell you from experience, Mr. Speaker, that the joy that children bring into the world is unparalleled. They are a gift from God that He gives to all of us. We need to look no further than Jeremiah 1:5 to know God's love for each child: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart."

In Deuteronomy 30:19, we are called to choose life. Moses is laying out for the Israelites the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience.

He says in Deuteronomy 30:19 that we are called to choose life.

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: Therefore choose life that both thou and thy seed may live."

Mr. Speaker, when we are choosing the death of an unborn child by abortion, then our unborn seed is not living.

Our great Nation has carried this belief in and respect for life from the very moment of our founding. Our forefathers noted that we are endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are granted to each of us, assuming we have the chance to begin living that life, yet, our society seems to struggle with that simple proposition.

□ 1745

Life allows for liberty and liberty allows for the pursuit of happiness. Without the fundamental right to life, our society begins to look vastly different. Without the fundamental right to life, we have neither liberty nor happiness.

Then on June 24, 2022, after almost 50 years of living—many of us would say dying—under the tragically unconstitutional Roe v. Wade decision, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. What a victory. The voiceless, once again, finally have a voice.

As thousands prepare to stand for life in our Nation's Capital, my Republican colleagues and I continue our fight for life by voting for the Pregnant Students' Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

I will always, always, Mr. Speaker, stand up and protect life.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly correct. In Texas, the border is important to us.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely no secret that the Biden administration has purposefully and willfully destroyed over 100 years of immigration policy, resulting in 8-million-plus illegal crossings since Joe Biden took office.

Mr. Speaker, I have been visiting the Texas border since my time in the Texas State House back in 2009. I was vice chair of the border committee my second term there. I got back from the border earlier this month, and I am heading back to the border soon.

What we are witnessing now is the worst I have ever seen. It is the worst that the Border Patrol agents and the Texas law enforcement officers have ever seen. They told us that in person.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Biden is responsible for creating the policies that are encouraging illegal immigration and he will not work in good faith with Republicans to fix the problem he created.

Mr. Speaker, we passed a border bill, H.R. 2, strong legislation to secure the American border. We passed that over 6 months ago. Just in the Border Patrol's Del Rio sector, we are seeing folks come across from countries like Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and China just to name a few, and over 300 documented cases of smuggling since October.

How many terrorists on 9/11 took down the World Trade Center? Nineteen.

Now we can identify a whole lot more terrorists coming in—300 documented cases of smuggling, as I said, since October. The weekly revenue for illicit human smuggling—let this sink in—\$30 million a week. That is \$120 million a month in the Del Rio sector alone, Mr. Speaker.

These are the people that Joe Biden is encouraging and enticing to come into our communities. We don't even know their background. Therefore, I can't say with confidence that we trust the Biden administration to perform due process, as he calls it, in processing illegal aliens before releasing them into our communities, into our States, and into our Nation.

This administration has a deliberate strategy to keep the border open and to continue the chaos, but Texas has had enough. Americans have had enough. Republicans are united to do whatever it takes to secure our southern border.

It is so simple, Mr. Speaker. All that the Biden administration needs to do to deter illegals and stop this crisis is to actually enforce laws already on the books.

Unfortunately, it has become painfully clear that President Biden prefers, instead, for 8 million or more illegal aliens to resettle in all 50 States and play a cynically partisan role in the future of American life by trying to make Democrats a permanent majority, or so they think.

They refuse to acknowledge what we understand so clearly, Mr. Speaker: it is simply that Americans of all stripes, all walks, all persuasions want a secure border.

The American people want these four things: End catch and release, Mr. President; build the wall, Mr. President; cease abuse of parole authority; reinstate remain in Mexico, Mr. President. It is just that simple. Secure the border, President Joe Biden.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his comments. I echo his sentiment of how simple and best it can be for the American people. It is just baffling that we can't have the administration understand this. I appreciate so many credible Members coming down and sharing their message from their own districts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas' 36th District, Representative BRIAN BABIN.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank my good friend from Utah for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, in all the years of my life, never would I ever have imagined that I would witness an American President using every resource available to him to unravel American national security, but that is our reality.

Since Joe Biden's very first day in office, the American people have watched him repeatedly and deliberately turn a blind eye to the border crisis unfolding down at our southern border and even up in our northern border.

As a result of his negligence, millions and millions of illegal aliens, including

cartel members, terror suspects, human traffickers, deadly drugs, illicit weapons, and more, much more, have been allowed to enter the Nation freely with fatal results for tens of thousands of American citizens, and even the migrants themselves.

Monthly illegal alien apprehension all-time records have been set and then broken under this administration, which is by the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' own admission, releasing upwards of 85 percent of those unlawfully crossing the border into the interior of the U.S.—85 percent of those apprehended at the border are released into the country.

More than 242,400 illegals were encountered crossing the southern border last November, a 236 percent increase from November 2020, roughly the population of Scottsdale, Arizona.

I would give an appropriate metaphor for December's historic border apprehensions, which reportedly have surpassed 302,000, but the administration has yet to make those public.

Knowing this, the President and his cronies would still have us believe that the southern border is somehow secure, which leads me to think that either they do not know the definition of the word "secure," or they think the American people are stupid.

My bet is on the latter, especially when you look at the dramatic dip in illegal border crossings this month. We were at the border 2 weeks ago with our Speaker and inexplicably before we got there, numbers had dropped mysteriously.

The White House would most likely have you believe that this decline in daily border encounters is the outcome of policy change, but Americans are not stupid.

This is nothing more than another facade to fool the public into thinking that the left has finally come to its senses on border security. Don't fall for it. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Whatever backhanded deal this administration has suddenly made with Mexico for a temporary period of time has nothing to do with your safety and everything to do with the optics surrounding a particular event taking place this November, a certain national election.

The only way to end this border crisis is to implement policies that stop incentivizing illegal immigration by finishing the border wall, by ending catch and release, by closing asylum loopholes, by blocking the exploitation of the Department of Homeland Security's CBP One app, restoring interior enforcement, and more. These are all policies that this administration and congressional Democrats clearly have no intention of doing on a permanent basis whatsoever.

I could go on and on, but the bottom line is this: The fate of America's sovereignty and very existence rests with its people, whose votes this November

will make that determination of whether America survives as we know it; as the great beacon of freedom shining on the hill for the rest of the world to see and emulate.

I will never falter. I will continue working to close the southern border and hold this administration to account.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his very clear message on navigating solving this issue.

Again, I reiterate: There are simple policy fixes that would take off an enormous amount of strain at our southern border. We have got the data to show that these policies are effective. I don't want to oversimplify it because I know this is Congress, but the immediate fixes can be so simple, and we have to quit empowering the cartels to put people in these situations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Sixth District of Tennessee, Representative JOHN ROSE.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah, Vice Chairman MOORE, for yielding and for claiming time this evening to discuss these important issues facing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Tennesseans across the State will travel to Washington to March for Life in our Nation's Capital later this week. I have had the opportunity to meet many of these people at various pro-life events throughout the years.

As they make the trek, I want them to know that this week, House Republicans are standing up for life on the House floor. Thanks to Republican leadership, the House will consider two pieces of pro-life legislation—the Pregnant Students' Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

Both bills are important steps toward ensuring that every child has the right to live and is protected. The Pregnant Students' Rights Act would require colleges and universities to disperse information to both prospective and enrolled students on the rights and resources available for pregnant students.

Too often, college students make the irreversible decision to have an abortion because they are unaware of resources that would support an alternative decision. This bill ensures that they have important information on their options and rights while pregnant.

The Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act would block an out-of-touch, proposed Biden administration rule that could prohibit States from giving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, funds to pregnancy centers that support the life of both the mother and the unborn child.

Pregnancy resource centers provide miracles for children and mothers seeking assistance with pregnancy and raising a child. The last thing the Biden administration should be doing

is implementing rules that discourage their use.

These bills are in addition to steps House Republicans have already taken to protect the sanctity of life, like passing the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and a resolution supporting crisis pro-life organizations that have been attacked, like the one in recent years in Nashville.

I was honored to speak in support of this resolution when it was brought to the floor last year and I was a proud cosponsor of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

□ 1800

Just because *Roe v. Wade* was overturned does not mean our work fighting for the right to life for all children is over. In fact, our work has just begun. As a pro-life father of two young sons, Guy and Sam, I will always stand for the right to life.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROSE for his heartfelt message on a very important week for this particular topic.

I yield to the gentleman from the Second District of South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), my former colleague on defense matters extraordinaire. I appreciate all his work in that regard.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we all appreciate the great work and leadership of Congressman MOORE of Utah, as he is conducting tonight's Special Order.

As the anniversary approaches for the 1973 infamous Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*, I was grateful to attend Proudly Pro-Life events at the South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia 2 weeks ago supporting mothers and children.

As part of that weekend, I joined South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, State Senator Mike Reichenbach of Florence, and other State leaders for the 50th March for Life. The march began at Russell House on the University of South Carolina campus, and a rally began on the statehouse grounds. It was well attended by many supporters despite very cold weather.

Founded by South Carolina Citizens for Life in 1974, the group is a State affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, the largest single issue right-to-life organization in the Nation. It exists solely to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia while supporting mother and child.

Courageous leaders in South Carolina are Holly Gatling, Lisa Van Riper, and Sally Zaleski. I am grateful that my eldest grandson, Addison Wilson III, several years ago participated in a National Right to Life March with classmates of the Holy Trinity Classical Christian School of Beaufort, South Carolina.

Through the legal and peaceful means of education, legislation, and political action, South Carolina Citizens for Life works to restore the right

to life of the preborn and to protect the lives of medically vulnerable individuals, including elderly, disabled, mentally ill, chronically ill, and terminally ill persons.

After the U.S. Supreme Court correctly overturned *Roe v. Wade*, State legislatures have become the determiners of abortion access. South Carolina, with strong bipartisan support in the General Assembly, is a right-to-life State. Additionally, South Carolina is upholding the State's ban on abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, as interpreted by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, in a statement, welcomed the decision saying: "The right to life is foremost and absolutely must be protected and prioritized."

This law protects life by prohibiting abortions after a fetal heartbeat has been detected with exceptions for rape or incest during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, medical emergencies, or fatal fetal anomalies.

Upon signing the bill into law, Governor Henry McMaster said: "This is a great day for life in South Carolina, but the fight is not over. We stand ready to defend this legislation against all challenges and are confident we will succeed. The right to life must be preserved, and we will do everything we can to protect it."

It is sad that Biden has abandoned his pro-life position to export extremist, radical, murderous abortion of babies up to the time of birth. This is infanticide, killing viable babies, which is condemned across the world except in dictatorial China and dictatorial North Korea.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who have protected America for 20 years since the 9/11 attacks. Sadly, currently, due to the appeasement in Afghanistan, the global war on terrorism continues with Afghanistan as a safe haven for terrorists to bring more attacks to America with Biden open borders. All Americans must be alerted that terrorist attacks could be imminent and are imminent in America, as warned by the FBI.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. WILSON's message during this very important week.

I yield to the gentleman from the First District of California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. MOORE's leading us here tonight. Indeed, a lot of important issues, but we know January is typically a month of action for people who believe in being pro-life or those who are pro-abortion.

As we know, January of 1973 is when the *Roe v. Wade* decision was arbitrarily legislated by the Supreme Court, I believe by a vote of 7-2, to somehow make abortion a law instead of leaving that up to State legislators.

Well, that was overturned after many, many years. It is now in the hands of legislators to actually do the

legislating and search their souls on whether they think an unborn baby is actually a life or something else.

Many people have stood up around this country to have their voices heard on the wrongness of that decision, and you find that in rallies and marches like happened all over the country and happened right here in D.C. in January. People have certainly made their voices heard, and I think it was successful in a Court that actually decided to interpret the Constitution.

Science supports the idea that life begins at conception. We know as early as 5 weeks in the womb, babies have a heartbeat. Some States, some jurisdictions are deciding that would be the point at least to start and acknowledge it is a life.

Their brain and circulatory systems are beginning to develop at 10 weeks in the womb. They have arms, legs, fingers and toes. They can jump and kick if startled.

At 15 weeks in the womb, babies have fully developed hearts and can taste, yawn, and hiccup. By this time, their brain is developed enough to feel and respond to pain. That is why we have seen pain-capable legislation at that level.

If this isn't life, then what is?

Thanks to advances in modern medicine and science, the humanity of a child in the womb is undeniable if it wasn't already common sensibly, and denying this reality undermines the very foundation of our ethical principles of science. Trust the science, we hear in other quarters.

I believe that each one of these innocent souls was created by God in his divine vision and that we must stand up against the left's radical, extreme, and immoral abortion agenda that wants to allow for discriminatory abortions at any point in a pregnancy, even on the basis of a baby's sex, race, and disability, even including late-term abortions for babies that would be able to survive perfectly fine outside of the womb, which that number is moving lower and lower in the number of weeks in which they have viability.

We must uphold the value, dignity, and potential for every person's life. Choosing life also means protecting women's health and their families. Yes, protecting health doesn't necessarily mean abortions that you would hear on the left because there are side effects that can affect the woman, as well.

This week, the House is considering two pro-life bills aimed at supporting expectant mothers, helping them choose life. H.R. 6918, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act would strike down the Department of Health and Human Services' proposed rule that would prohibit funding for pregnancy centers.

It speaks volumes that the Biden administration wants our tax dollars to go toward abortion but not pregnancy centers which provide invaluable services and resources to expectant mothers who want to keep their children.

They provide both sides of the story to a prospective mother.

I have visited these centers before and seen the good work, the good cheer, the good attitude they have on actually helping a woman in a difficult decision to have all the facts, so that all the facts are known. They provide pregnancy counseling and information about pregnancy, offering free pregnancy testing and sometimes even clothing and supplies for the newborns.

The other bill, H.R. 6914, the Pregnant Students' Rights Act, requires higher-education institutions to provide prospective and enrolled pregnant students with a list of nearby resources for new and expectant mothers, as well as available accommodations on campus. Indeed, both sides of the story, not just the abortion one.

The bill is critical to ensure that mothers don't have to give up their education and can further their careers while, indeed, starting a family. Being pro-life means supporting initiatives that provide resources for pregnant women, promoting adoption as a loving option, and advocating for policies that protect the unborn, humans.

Abortion is a gruesome act that destroys families, harms women's health, and murders the innocent. I will fight for the unborn, the sanctity of life, and traditional family values because I think that is the right way to be in the eyes of God.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the message of the gentleman from California, particularly during this week again.

Finally, I yield to the gentleman from the Fourth District of Florida (Mr. Bean) for a special message.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is a great week to honor life, but what about the secret to life? Most people spend their whole lives chasing the secret to life, but Chris Bryan figured it out early: Family, community, and caring about others.

I rise today to honor the meaningful life of Christina "Chris" Bryan. If you called her Christina, then you were a salesman from out of town. A true friend and long-time mentor of mine, Chris Bryan was a shining example of everything wonderful about northeast Florida. Throughout her life, she wholeheartedly invested in her family and friends and embodied the virtues of service, grit, determination, and generosity.

Born and raised in Fernandina Beach, Chris was a pillar of our community for the better part of a century. Chris dedicated her life to service. She was a key member of so many community organizations, including the Gator Booster Board of Directors, the YMCA, the Baptist Medical Center Nassau Board, the Fernandina Beach High School Foundation, the Nassau County Council on Aging. Chris was also involved heavily at the Memorial United Methodist Church.

Just speaking from experience, Mr. Speaker—you may know this—I do

charity auctions and have done a ton. One of my secrets to raising a lot of money was having Chris and the Bryan family in the audience because I knew if she and they were there, it was going to be a big night for the charity because of her unmatched generosity.

Although she made countless contributions to these organizations, many as a founder, her true legacy is the beautiful family she leaves behind. She is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Bill Bryan; their daughters, Amy and Ginny; Ginny's husband, Heyward; and their grandchildren, Heyward and Liz. I am told they had a wonderful Christmas Eve this year. She and Bill cooked and spent the evening listening to her family talking about what was going on in their lives and letting her family know how much they were loved and cared for.

We knew she was sick, but she was so positive in her treatment that few knew just how sick she was. She passed away peacefully at the age of 78, and I am devastated about her passing. Chris put her family and her community and friends first. She forged strong bonds with those around her, and that is the reason why it is so hard to say goodbye. I count myself blessed and lucky to have called her a friend. I take heart in knowing that she is in a much better place, suffering no more.

Revelation 21:4 says:

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the radiant life of Chris Bryan.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Every one of our constituents, the people who we serve deserve that type of attention. I appreciate you for highlighting the wonderful life that she lived.

Mr. Speaker, I will wrap up briefly just by saying House Republicans have an incredible focus this week, keeping the focus on finding the solutions needed at the border and pressuring and pleading with President Biden to just take a look at what has been done in the past.

We have got policies that existed in the previous administration that worked, and they limited border activity and cartel activity. These things are simple, and we need them reinstated. Embracing these things is what the American people need.

Lastly, we have got very important bills on the floor this week related to supporting women, parents, and babies, as women make incredibly tough choices, finding the support they need in various ways, whether they are in school, whether they are in their community, whether they are working, whatever the circumstance may be. These children need a chance to have every opportunity they deserve. We are focused on building out sound legislation that addresses that this week.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for sharing their messages, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1815

#### ASSESSING IMPACT OF MEDICARE CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 30 minutes.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 1965, a program called Medicare was inceptioned. It was offering health benefits to those over age 65.

At first, physicians were very suspicious of allowing so much government intervention in medicine. After a while, more and more physicians doing their duty to take care of patients accepted it.

The sad fact and the problem is that Medicare now is what they, in 1965, were very afraid of, that so much of government has gotten into medical issues.

This is the main problem. Medicare does not reimburse the cost of care for patients. This is a real access issue. We are not really talking about paying physicians. We are talking about access to care.

This year, CMS is proposing a 3.37 percent cut to the physician fee schedule. It would be about a 20 percent cut over the last 20 years.

Doctors want to see Medicare patients, but they simply won't be able to, and this is going to affect access to care.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend who is board-certified in internal medicine and dermatology.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for holding this Special Order to discuss the issues of the impact of the Medicare cuts.

In rural communities, like where I serve in south central and southwestern Pennsylvania, seniors rely on Medicare to see their doctors, to fill their prescriptions, and to take an ambulance in case of an emergency. Now, these patients are in serious danger of losing access to their trusted healthcare providers.

Medicare pay cuts, when compiled with 4.6 percent medical inflation, re-

sult in increased barriers to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Let's be clear about what these cuts mean for a Medicare patient, and these cuts, for everyone's information, have already gone into effect on January 1.

These cuts mean that rural and small providers will be forced to restrict access to Medicare patients and, in dire cases, will be unable to keep their doors open at all.

As a doctor, I understand firsthand the negative impact that these significant year-after-year cuts have on rural providers.

Now, extrapolate that and then compound that with already existing workforce shortages in underserved areas like my district in rural Pennsylvania. I can assure you the repercussions are dire. These cuts jeopardize physicians' ability to provide quality care for elderly patients in our communities.

When physicians who participate in Medicare are increasingly being forced to do more with less, it is ultimately the patient who will suffer. These cuts will accelerate practice consolidation and force patients into higher cost settings for care. It will mean longer travel times and longer wait times for patients to see their family doctor, to see a surgeon, and to see a specialist.

As physicians and as legislators, we have an obligation to work to find a solution for Medicare patients. Congress must step in and address these cuts before they do any additional damage to our healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order hour.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), one of the doctor co-chairs. He has been a stalwart in the Chamber for 20-plus years as a physician, a retired OB-GYN.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MURPHY for bringing us together tonight. I am here tonight not just because I am a Member of Congress from the 26th Congressional District, but I am also a doc. I practiced for 25 years back home. I am a Medicare patient. I know firsthand how hard it can be to find a doctor that still accepts Medicare.

I will tell you, there is nothing more injurious to our medical system here in this country than the repetitive cuts that this administration has delivered to the doctors of this country.

In November, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finalized a 3.5 percent cut in physician payments for this year, 2024, a decision that took place on January 1 of this year, a blow to the very backbone of our healthcare.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, we had an actual historic event last month. We marked up a doc fix and a budget neutrality bill.

The GOP Doctors Caucus and the Energy and Commerce Committee took action to address the challenges by passing H.R. 6545, which was the Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act. That bill includes a conversion factor update as well as provisions