

Chico, California, sued the Chico Unified School District for trying to secretly socially transition her young daughter, alleging that a school counselor pressured her child to change her name and pronouns, dismissing the child's desire to inform her parents of the change.

Regino alleged that a parental secrecy policy is in place at Chico Unified and stipulated that the school district not disclose what was happening while her daughter was at school.

At first Chico Unified denied the existence of a parental secrecy policy, but later the school board actually voted 3-2 to publicly uphold it.

If that weren't bad enough, last week California Attorney General Rob Bonta led 16 attorneys general in filing an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals in support of Chico Unified's parental secrecy policy.

Shame on every single one of them for advocating for this horrible practice.

The child at the center of this case was subject to bullying by other children during her transition process. The counselor informed the child's teachers and peers of what was going on, but would not let the girl confer with her own parents while this was happening before announcing her new status to all the other kids.

She has since gone back and identified with her biological sex.

#### 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade. That decision, which recognized women's individual right to bodily autonomy, has now been supplanted by a Supreme Court that effectively said that the Federal Government isn't here to protect your individual rights because that is a States' rights issue now.

House Republicans, having cheered injecting States' rights into your individual private lives would now like to bring the Federal Government into the conversation.

If you don't believe me, Mr. Speaker, just look at what they are doing.

They passed legislation this term that would create a Federal prohibition against women who are serving in our military from traveling to get an abortion if they are stationed in a State that doesn't respect their individual rights.

They pushed legislation that would create a Federal prohibition on women from accessing medication abortion, even if that is legal in their State.

Nonetheless, here is the simple truth: The Republican Party with a big assist from a misogynistic Supreme Court took rights away from 167 million American women, granted them to States, and are now trying to take

those rights away and give them to the Federal Government.

Here is the truth: Abortion has never been a States' rights issue, and it has never been a Federal rights issue. It has always been a women's rights issue, and I hope that some day that is not partisan.

#### HOSTAGE IN GAZA—LIRI ALBAG

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Liri Albag, one of the remaining hostages in Gaza.

This past Sunday marked the 100th day since Hamas terrorists brutally attacked Israel. There are still 136 innocent hostages who are experiencing the unimaginable. Terrorists carried out this atrocious attack, and terrorists are holding people like Liri against their will.

I want to start by sharing her story. She is 18 years old. Her friends and family describe her as having a heart of gold. Her mother and sister say she is a strong woman who enjoys exploring life, holding an optimistic perspective, and wants to see the world as a beautiful place.

Her life revolves around music and art, and she is a truly gifted young woman.

On October 7, Liri and 240 other innocent men, women, children, and elderly were violently kidnapped.

Liri needs to come home. She was working on an IDF base. It was her second day, and she was kidnapped. She was taken from us. So as this awful war goes on, we must continue to call for the release of these hostages. We cannot forget people like Liri.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PALMA HIGH SCHOOL CHIEFTAINS

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Palma High School Chieftains football team who recently won the California 4-A State championship.

While Palma High is no longer a part of my 19th Congressional District—I thank the redistricting commission—the Chieftains are definitely part of my memories. As a proud Carmel High Padre football player, I played against Palma all 4 years of my high school career, and, yes, I lost to Palma all 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, Palma is what you call a powerhouse when it comes to sports, especially in football, but they have never won a State championship until this year.

At the beginning of this season, it didn't even look like they were going to win sectionals as they started off going 0 and 5.

Nevertheless, typical Palma, led by Head Coach Jeff Carnazo, they always work hard, they always play smart, and, inevitably, they always win as they did over Mission Oaks High School in the State championship.

I congratulate Palma President, Chris Dalman, whom I played against back in high school, and who went on to play with the San Francisco 49ers and win a Super Bowl.

I congratulate the parents, the students, and, of course, the Chieftain football team on their State championship. They not only made the central coast proud, they made this former Padre very proud.

#### EXTREME REPUBLICANS' NATIONAL ABORTION BAN

(Ms. SCHRIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, once again, extreme Republicans are doubling down on their out-of-touch attacks on women as they renew their march toward a national abortion ban.

Today, they brought to the floor bills called the Pregnant Students' Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act. They are two bills with great names and terrible policies.

The first stigmatizes students who seek abortion care. The second pulls money away from needy families in order to fund crisis pregnancy centers. These are sham centers that masquerade as clinics offering free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, but they aren't. They often don't even have a healthcare provider and are designed specifically to dissuade women from considering abortion.

As a physician who has had these nonjudgmental conversations with my own patients, I am disgusted by this manipulation of women who think they are receiving legitimate medical care but are really just getting propaganda.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. This is the march toward a national abortion ban. Vote "no."

□ 1745

#### HEARTBREAK FOR THOSE WHO STRUGGLE TO GET PREGNANT

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, being a mother to my two children, Clay and Adrienne, is the greatest privilege of my life and my greatest joy. I often refer to them as the best thing I have ever done, and they are my rocks.

When I hear from women who so badly want to have children, but struggle with their fertility, it really makes me sad.

According to the CDC, infertility affects one in five women in the United States. In fact, it affected me, but I

have seen firsthand how heartbreaking and expensive struggling to conceive can be. I firmly believe as lawmakers that it is our duty to support these families, not to restrict their access to reproductive healthcare.

Everyone deserves access to the full range of assisted reproductive technologies to help them start or grow their families, including treatments like in vitro fertilization, or IVF. That is why I am so proud to join Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH today to introduce the Access to Family Building Act, which would codify the right to assisted reproduction technologies and ensure that no State law can infringe upon this right.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can all agree that we should support hopeful parents, and I call on my friends on both sides of the aisle to join me in bringing this legislation to the floor.

#### REMEMBERING HEROIC FIRE-FIGHTER STERLING "BUTCH" RAHE

(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 rise today to pay tribute to the life of longtime heroic Ohio firefighter, Sterling "Butch" Rahe, who passed away on New Year's Day.

Butch served our community for over 30 years, three decades, as a firefighter in both Springfield Township and Toledo, most recently acting as the public face of the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, which is a really hard job.

Former Toledo Fire Chief Brian Byrd said: The fact that Butch loved the people he served and the people with whom he served is indisputable. We all thank him.

Springfield Township Fire Chief Barry Cousino said: He was a fireman's fireman. He loved what he did. Whenever he got in the public, he always treated people with respect and treated them like family.

In fitting tribute, his homegoing procession made stops by Springfield Township Fire Station 51 and Toledo Fire Station 17, where he served, for one final good-bye with crowds gathered on both sides of the street to pay their respects as the procession went by.

Mr. Speaker, I offer fitting tribute and a community-wide deep thank you for his service. He will truly be missed. Every grateful person and family he assisted will remember him by his countless acts of mercy and love.

#### FEEDING THE CHILDREN OF TEXAS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank President Joseph Biden

and Vice President Kamala Harris for working with those of us who have a deep abiding concern for our children.

I chair the Congressional Children's Caucus, and I was delighted that we were able to provide for the summer feeding youth program that will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner for our children in the summer when they are not on a program that is held during the school year.

This is a vital program. It is a program that simply has the opportunity for our State to match and the Federal Government then matches and provides hungry children a lifeline.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking publicly for the State of Texas to accept the summer feeding program and to be one of the 35 States that have already accepted this program to participate in, so that the 3 million children in the State of Texas, and the nearly 100,000 in my congressional district, and possibly 1 million in the region that I represent would have the ability to eat.

Don't you want our children of Texas to eat? Let us participate in the summer feeding program. Let's do it now.

#### FAREWELL SPEECH BY REPRESENTATIVE BILL JOHNSON OF OHIO

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for recognizing me this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a bittersweet message for my colleagues.

After more than a dozen years here in the House of Representatives, I am retiring/resigning this week.

I have so loved this work. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve the good people of eastern and southeastern Ohio.

To many, the people I represent are just the flown-over or flyover country, but they are truly so much more.

From Youngstown to Portsmouth, to St. Clairsville to Zanesville, these are people who care deeply. They are hard-working men and women, with strong values and a proud legacy of doing the hard things that keep America moving forward—mining coal, making steel, and producing oil and natural gas. So often they do it with the deck stacked against them, mocked by political elites who wish they would simply go away.

Leaving Washington, believe me, will be easy, but leaving my job, representing these fine folks, is hard.

I hear a new call. It is a call to help prepare the next generation of American leaders. I will be doing it at one of our country's finest public institutions of higher learning, Youngstown State University.

It took a unique offer for me to leave the people's House, but becoming presi-

dent of Youngstown State is a challenge I felt I must accept.

Working with our young people to shape the future excites me and gives me hope and zeal for the work ahead.

This brings me to my main message today. It might seem out of step in today's culture, but it is something everyone must hear. The message is simple: America is exceptional.

The Founding Fathers knew it, and on July 4, 1776, when they declared it out loud, the rest of the world soon found out that it was true also. They knew it, too.

Those men laid down a bedrock foundation on the principles of personal liberty, free enterprise, and a representative government accountable to the people. It is, without a doubt, the greatest government ever created in the history of humanity.

Now, my life has been a constant journey to serve my country, from my 26-plus years in the United States Air Force to this journey of servicing Congress and into my next chapter leading one of Ohio's finest universities.

My commitment to service is because of the debt of gratitude that I owe. I grew up poor, but this country has given me the opportunity to prosper.

I have lived the American Dream, and that has kindled optimism in my heart.

Sure, I know that watching the news or reading comments on the internet today can be depressing, but I truly don't believe these divisions that are rocking our Nation today will hold.

That is because deep down we all want the same thing here in America—peace, freedom, and the ability to pursue the American Dream on our own terms and to build a life. We mustn't let voices of anger shred our American sense of self.

In President George Washington's farewell address, he encouraged his countrymen to recognize and enjoy the fruits of the new Constitution and national government that fostered liberty and opportunity.

His message resonates down through the generations even today. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, we all enjoy the same liberty. Liberal, moderates, and conservatives, we all have the same opportunities.

These are our common threads. Let's strengthen the fabric that binds us together. We can disagree without dissolving that bond. Indeed, that is the only way forward.

My new workplace will be a university campus, which is an ideal place for disagreements and debate to happen in a way that is civil and educational. We should and we will foster discussion even if the result is merely acceptance of differing views.

That is what George Washington and our Founders fought for, and it is the ideal that makes America different and better than other countries. It is one of the many reasons America is exceptional.

For that, I am most thankful.