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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 22, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NATHANIEL MORAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ADDRESSING NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we are more than 3 weeks into January, yet Republican leadership in this Chamber has failed to call a vote on a single piece of legislation to address the pressing needs of hardworking families. There has been nothing to ease the burden of grocery prices, nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and

nothing to make it easier for an American to buy a home.

Instead, what is the priority for the Republicans this week? A vote on H.R. 21, the so-called Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a bill that will give politicians here in Washington the power to monitor women's pregnancies and criminalize doctors and nurses who provide lifesaving care to women in need. I wish I was kidding.

Over the next couple of days, we are going to hear Republicans get up here and use scare tactic after scare tactic in attempting to justify this vote, so let's set the record straight about what this legislation does.

At first glance, its stated goal might sound reasonable: "to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion."

That sounds logical on paper, but here is the reality: This situation almost never happens. When Texas passed a law requiring reporting on abortions resulting in live births, they reported zero live births over 3 years—zero. The same was true in Oklahoma.

What is this bill actually targeting? As we dig into H.R. 21, it becomes clear that this legislation purposely distorts what abortion care really is. It sweeps up highly complex and deeply personal medical situations, including those where a mother learns that her life is in danger because her baby has a fatal abnormality and cannot survive outside the womb.

Imagine the agony of that mother, a woman who dreamed of holding her child, now forced to make the unthinkable decision to induce labor to save her own life.

As her baby is born in agonizing pain with just minutes or hours to live, because no amount of medical intervention can save them, this bill seeks to make that horrifying situation even worse by overruling any decision by

the mother and her doctor to provide compassionate, appropriate medical care.

Instead, it threatens doctors and nurses with jail time, even if the only alternative is prolonging the pain, suffering, and, tragically, the inevitable death of the baby.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, how does that make sense? Why do Republican Members of Congress insist they know what is better for a mother and her baby than she and her doctor do?

This bill is not about protecting life. It is about pushing out blatant lies about women's healthcare, and it is about control. It is about extreme Republican politicians inserting themselves into the most personal, private, and heartbreaking decisions a family has to make.

The cost is that women's lives are put at risk because some here would rather legislate ideology than acknowledge the complexity of real-life medical decisions.

To my colleagues across the aisle, instead of advancing a dangerous, divisive bill that exploits women's health for political gain, let's focus on what Americans are actually asking us to do. Let's work to lower costs. Let's expand access to healthcare. Let's give families the tools they need to thrive. The American people sent us here to do that work together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the GOP's reproductive healthcare surveillance act.

PUTTING AMERICA ON A BETTER PATH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate President Trump's inauguration and his commitment to revitalizing our great Nation.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Over the past 4 years, Pennsylvania families have struggled under Biden's America-last policies. While every administration faces challenges, President Biden leaves behind a legacy of weakness and failure.

As President Trump said in his inaugural speech on Monday, our country is at the dawn of a golden age, thanks to the President's commitment to America First policies.

Look no further than the dozens of executive orders the President signed on his very first day in office as a sign that our country has turned the corner and is headed toward a brighter future. These orders immediately implement policies that will unleash American energy, ensure the freedom of speech in this country, end Federal censorship, secure our southern border, and restore accountability throughout the Federal Government.

While all of these policies put our country on a better path forward, I want to highlight a few that will have immediate, positive impacts for our country.

With a commitment to safeguarding our great Nation, President Trump is restoring commonsense immigration policy. On day one, he reversed the dangerous immigration policies of the Biden administration, reinstating sound enforcement measures like the remain in Mexico policy.

President Trump further prioritized our national security by designating the crisis at our southern border as a national emergency. Through this designation, the Trump administration can deliver military assistance and critical infrastructure investments to combat the cartels' campaigns of violence. These actions are critical in reclaiming control of our southern border and upholding the sovereignty of our Nation. By strengthening our resolve to fight unauthorized entry and unlawful presence, President Trump has once again demonstrated his commitment to American security and prosperity.

Unlike the previous administration, President Trump also recognizes the unique and present threat that drug smugglers and cartels pose to the health and safety of the American people. His declaration to designate these organizations as foreign terrorists will ensure the full capabilities of the Federal Government are being utilized to combat these bad actors.

On the global stage, America's standing suffered under President Biden. His disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan led to chaos and the rapid resurgence of the Taliban. This not only endangered countless lives but also tarnished the credibility of the United States among its allies and adversaries alike. President Trump's plan to restore America's leadership on the global stage is centered on strength, accountability, and putting America's interests first.

This is why President Trump also issued an executive order to enhance

vetting procedures for foreign nationals entering the United States, focusing on identifying security threats and establishing stricter screening protocols.

On day one, President Trump also put our country back on the path of energy independence with his Unleashing American Energy initiative, which reverses the previous administration's harmful policies and expands domestic energy production. Representing the fairway of the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, I know firsthand how important domestic energy production is for our national security and the global environment. By expediting permits, eliminating unnecessary regulations, and fostering the development of America's abundant natural resources, we are reclaiming our status as a global energy leader.

Mr. Speaker, all these policies were implemented within hours of President Trump taking office. His message and determination to put this country on a better path are absolutely clear. I look forward to working with President Trump and his administration in ensuring a more secure border and energy independence and making our Nation respected again.

PUTTING ALL AMERICANS FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Donald Trump to truly put America first by setting politics aside and providing California with the disaster relief we urgently need and deserve. Let's do that by fighting for California, home to close to 40 million people who also live in America.

Just a few weeks ago, big, bad fires broke out across Los Angeles County. Donald Trump's first instinct was to point fingers at California leaders for fires caused not by them but by Mother Nature herself and climate change. For the record, California has a lot of things, but one thing we do not have is a big old sink that can water the entire State.

Now, Trump wants to be a unifier. He claims he wants to put America first, so let's talk about what America First genuinely means.

America First does not involve placing conditions on disaster aid to Americans simply because of how a State voted.

America First does not mean leaving thousands of people without housing amid an ongoing housing crisis.

America First does not look like insurance companies robbing people or putting shareholders first.

What putting America first does mean, however, is passing disaster aid without conditions because, as Americans, we help each other when we are in need. At least, I thought that is what we do.

America First means build and rebuild. Build, baby, rebuild, swiftly and fairly, so no one remains unhoused.

America First means making insurance plans accessible to everyone, not just the rich and those properties that are considered low risk.

Mr. Trump, the individuals impacted by the fires in Los Angeles are not just, as you put it, "the wealthiest and most powerful individuals in our country" who were present at your inauguration. These are real people—grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren, working, middle-class individuals—who have lost everything.

News flash, Donald Trump, many of them voted for you.

Let's support them and not just the wealthy few. That is how we truly put America first.

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

BEGINNING A NEW ERA IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is a new era in American history.

I congratulate President Donald Trump and Senator, now-Vice President J.D. Vance on their inauguration. This is the beginning of a golden age where we will secure our borders, lower prices, unleash American energy, and drain the D.C. swamp.

Under President Trump's leadership, we will restore safety by securing our borders and putting American citizens first—no more open borders or out-of-control illegal immigration. We will cut the costs that are crushing families across this Nation and especially in Iowa. By unleashing American energy, we will lower gas prices and, subsequently, food prices and reduce our dependency on foreign energy.

Let's be clear. We are here to drain the D.C. swamp. It is time to root out waste, inefficiency, and corruption that has held this Nation back for too long.

I pray for their success and that God blesses their leadership and guides their efforts to make America stronger, safer, and more prosperous for everyone than ever before.

I also wish President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump a wonderful and happy 20th anniversary.

□ 1015

CELEBRATING CLARA PETERSEN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable woman from West Branch, Iowa, Clara Petersen, who recently turned 100 years old.

While this milestone is extraordinary on its own, Clara's life and legacy are made even more remarkable by her service to our country during World