

committee. We have heard from our constituents already. For example:

Large lenders have already announced they are not going to do one-time closings anymore due to the uncertainty.

That comes from an individual in Tyler, Texas.

I quoted earlier one from El Paso, who stated:

Presented in El Paso, an institution is going to stop residential mortgage lending for a time until they can get a good feeling on how the regulation is going to be officially interpreted.

Americans are being denied homeownership opportunities, and all the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the author of H.R. 3192, says is: Let's have, for those who operate in good faith, a temporary grace period in trying to roll this out.

So what the motion to recommit does—and I know this is not the gentleman's purpose, but what his motion to recommit does, if adopted by the House, is actually discriminate against the very people that he says he wishes to help because now, all of a sudden, it is going to be our servicemembers, our veterans, our seniors, our students, and family members of servicemembers, veterans, seniors, and students who are going to be denied their homeownership opportunities.

Now, maybe in the gentleman's district they prefer the lawsuit. In my district, in the Fifth District of Texas, they prefer the homeownership opportunity. Any bad actors can still be sued under TILA in a private right-of-action, but when we are trying to ensure that people are not denied their homeownership opportunities, why would we want to discriminate against our servicemembers and veterans? Because all of a sudden, then, there is extra liability.

So everybody will know now that if you are going to lend on a home mortgage to a veteran, you are going to have extra liability. Are you going to make that loan? Are you going to charge them more? This House should reject any discrimination against our servicemembers, veterans, seniors, students, and family members of servicemembers, veterans, seniors, and students, and reject this motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A SELECT INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 461 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 461

Resolved, That there is hereby established a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (hereinafter "select panel").

SEC. 2. (a) The select panel shall be composed of not more than 13 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner appointed by the Speaker, of whom not more than five shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader. Any vacancy in the select panel shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) Each member appointed to the select panel shall be treated as though a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce for purposes of the select panel.

(c) No member may serve on the select panel in an ex officio capacity.

(d) The Speaker shall designate as chair of the select panel a member elected to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

SEC. 3. (a) The select panel is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study and issue a final report of its findings (and such interim reports as it may deem necessary) regarding—

(1) medical procedures and business practices used by entities involved in fetal tissue procurement;

(2) any other relevant matters with respect to fetal tissue procurement;

(3) Federal funding and support for abortion providers;

(4) the practices of providers of second and third trimester abortions, including partial birth abortion and procedures that may lead to a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion;

(5) medical procedures for the care of a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion; and

(6) any changes in law or regulation necessary as a result of any findings made under this subsection.

(b) The chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce shall cause any such report to be printed and made publicly available in electronic form.

SEC. 4. Rule XI and the rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce shall apply to the select panel in the same manner as a subcommittee except as follows:

(1) The chair of the select panel may authorize and issue subpoenas pursuant to

clause 2(m) of rule XI in the investigation and study conducted pursuant to section 3, including for the purpose of taking depositions.

(2) The chair of the select panel, upon consultation with the ranking minority member, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena, by a member of the select panel or a counsel of the select panel. Such depositions shall be governed by the regulations issued by the chair of the Committee on Rules pursuant to section 3(b)(2) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and printed in the Congressional Record. The select panel shall be deemed to be a committee for purposes of such regulations.

(3) The chair of the select panel may, after consultation with the ranking minority member, recognize—

(A) members of the select panel to question a witness for periods longer than five minutes as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(B) of rule XI; and

(B) staff of the select panel to question a witness as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(C) of rule XI.

SEC. 5. Service on the select panel shall not count against the limitations in clause 5(b)(2)(A) of rule X.

SEC. 6. The select panel shall cease to exist 30 days after filing the final report required under section 3.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, H. Res. 461 provides for the creation of a select investigative panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The resolution ensures the House exercises one of its most fundamental constitutional responsibilities: oversight of the use of Federal funds and compliance with Federal law.

Undercover investigations have revealed that an organization that receives hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars annually, Planned Parenthood, has also been taking the remains of unborn children and selling them to tissue collection firms.

Its staff has reportedly even altered their medical procedures to more effectively dismember unborn children, with one abortionist saying: "We have been very good at getting heart, lung, liver...because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm gonna basically crush below, I'm gonna crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact."

There are also allegations that children may have been born alive and left to die in order to harvest their tissue.

How can we in Congress ignore these charges? It is clear that a full investigation is not only warranted, but imperative, into these issues. Even if these abortion providers somehow managed to comply with all Federal laws while dismembering children, it is clear we need to learn more about their barbaric tactics so we can amend those laws and ensure practices like these never happen again, particularly by organizations receiving millions from U.S. taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, in order to effectively continue the oversight that the House has begun into these issues, H. Res. 461 would establish a select investigative panel at the Committee on Energy and Commerce to provide a full investigation and study into these allegations. This panel would be made up of 13 members appointed by the Speaker, 5 of which will be by the recommendation of the minority leader and chaired by a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Its operations will not require any additional appropriations of funds.

The investigation will be focused on medical procedures and business practices of entities involved in fetal tissue procurement; Federal funding and support for abortion providers; practices of providers of second- and third-trimester abortions, including partial birth abortions; medical care provided to children born alive as a result of an attempted abortion; and necessary changes in law or regulation identified by this investigation.

□ 1600

This type of investigation or special panel is far from unprecedented. When in the majority, my colleagues across the aisle formed the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel under the Appropriations Committee as well as a Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

The creation of a select investigative panel on the issues surrounding the sale of unborn children's tissue is clearly within precedent, and I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will agree that we must get to the bottom of this.

We have seen video evidence of children being dismembered to facilitate the sale of their hearts and other organs. Few issues can make us come together like our children. It is my hope that our partisan battles will cease for a brief moment to enable us to have a full investigation into the fate of children at the most vulnerable time of their lives.

Even for those who support abortion on demand, it should be simple to unite behind the principle that organizations receiving hundreds of millions in taxpayer funds are subject to congressional oversight, particularly when their divisive practices may violate Federal law and are, frankly, barbaric.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the resulting investigation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, creating a select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood is a journey with no end, a solution in search of a problem.

Congressman CHAFFETZ, who is chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, held a hearing 2 weeks ago that lasted over 5 hours and relentlessly badgered the president of Planned Parenthood, the only witness. Cecile Richards comported herself so well. But despite that, we are going to do this again.

Mr. CHAFFETZ was asked by CNN's Wolf Blitzer after the hearing, "Is there any evidence, in your opinion, that Planned Parenthood has broken any law?" Mr. CHAFFETZ responded, "No, I'm not suggesting they broke the law."

So if they haven't broken the law, what are we doing here? Why do we investigate over and over? There are three committees in the House right now investigating Planned Parenthood.

We have spent the day trying to get our colleagues to stop putting on these select committees, which do not comply with the way things have always been to be fair to both sides of the committee and let Democrats have the same kind of benefit of information as they have.

This one, though, I think is even worse because it gives subpoena power to the head of what is basically a subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee that is unilateral. We have never seen that before.

So why do we spend time and funds and resources investigating an organization that we know has done nothing wrong? Because we are dealing with a majority obsessed with taking constitutionally protected health care away from women, many of whom, I may add, are poor.

If you add that to the 54, 55 votes to do away with a healthcare bill called ObamaCare, apparently, the major obsession of the majority is to take health care away from people. That is a little hard to comprehend, since we all represent about 750,000 constituents who I don't think would be happy about that.

So every time we attack Planned Parenthood, remember that you are attacking one in five American women who have used Planned Parenthood.

Whether it is a select committee or intentionally misleading data, this majority will use any tactic necessary. In fact, the tactics Mr. CHAFFETZ used a week ago were resoundingly discredited. His hearing materials—one chart in particular—was so misleading that the press called it words that I am not allowed to say on the floor of the House.

Is that what we expect from this select committee? Let me say, for one, it is certainly what I expect. A flippant disregard for truth goes against what

we have come here to Congress to do. We came to govern, uphold the Constitution of the United States, and to do our best domestically.

We are not doing our best domestically. We have no budget. As a friend of mine said today, this is a majority that can't build bridges, roads, or highways, but can sure build select committees.

This House majority decides to spend the time, money, and resources of the taxpayers attempting to cut funding for the same idea that has not happened for 39 years. Remember, this has not happened for 39 years.

Since the appearance of the Hyde amendment, not a single Federal dollar has been spent on abortion, except in very, very rare cases to save the life of the mother. That is right.

Contrary to what the majority would have the American public believe, Planned Parenthood spends zero Federal dollars on abortions today. That is what the majority select committee will investigate. For 39 years, that law has never been broken.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 461. This resolution would create a select panel to investigate a number of claims related to Planned Parenthood's activities involving abortion and fetal tissue procurement.

Like many Americans, I was horrified by the recent videos which depicted Planned Parenthood employees callously discussing the trafficking and sale of aborted babies' tissues and organs.

As a mother of four, I know that nothing is more sacred than the gift of human life, and any organization that puts a price on unborn children must be held accountable.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I am actively involved in the House investigation examining the atrocities committed by Planned Parenthood. While we are continuing to gather information and determine the exact nature of the organization's actions, one thing is certain. These practices represent a blatant disregard for innocent life, and they must be stopped.

By establishing a select panel, we can ensure that we have the proper tools and time needed to uncover the truth, bring accountability to the organization, and justice to the most innocent among us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. I urge my colleagues to support this measure and to stand with me in the fight to defend innocent human life.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS),

the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as well as the Select Benghazi Committee.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the ranking member of the Select Committee on Benghazi and the House Oversight Committee, I rise in strong opposition to this proposal by House Republicans to establish yet another new select panel to ramp up their baseless and politically motivated attacks against Planned Parenthood.

Last week two senior Republicans, both of whom are now competing to become the next Speaker of the House, made stunning admissions on national television within 24 hours of each other.

First, Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY admitted that House Republicans established the Benghazi Select Committee to use millions of dollars in taxpayer funds to damage Hillary Clinton's bid for President.

The next day the chairman of the Oversight Committee, Chairman CHAFFETZ, admitted on national television that there is no evidence that Planned Parenthood has violated any laws, despite months of investigations.

Let me repeat that. The chairman of the chief investigative committee that has been investigating Planned Parenthood for months admitted on national television that there is no evidence that Planned Parenthood violated any laws. His admission is consistent with the findings of multiple State investigations in Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and South Dakota, all of which have cleared Planned Parenthood of wrongdoing.

I ask my colleagues, if the top investigator in the House of Representatives says there is no evidence against Planned Parenthood, why in the world are we considering a proposal to set up a new select panel? I think the answer is the same here as it was with Benghazi. It is simply politics.

These stark Republican admissions obviously argue against continuing with these taxpayer-funded political attacks. Yet, House Republicans are proposing exactly the opposite.

They have already squandered more than \$4.5 million on the Benghazi Select Committee in one of the longest, least productive, and most partisan congressional investigations in history.

Now they want to use the same terrible model to attack the rights of millions of women across the country who rely on Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings, breast exams, and other critical healthcare services every year.

Planned Parenthood has cooperated with every aspect of the congressional investigations to date. They have produced tens of thousands of pages of documents. Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards testified voluntarily for nearly 5 hours before the Oversight Committee. Even Chairman CHAFFETZ conceded that she has been

“very cooperative with the investigation.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CUMMINGS. So, again, why do we need this new panel? Based on Planned Parenthood's exemplary record of cooperation, the tens of thousands of pages of documents the organization has produced in response to congressional requests, and the lack of any evidence that the group has violated any laws, there is simply no legitimate basis to adopt this proposal.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is those Members across the aisle who raise the issue of Benghazi that are playing politics by trying to distract Americans from the actual issue we are debating today.

The purpose of this resolution is to establish a select panel consistent with past precedent under Democrat majorities to ensure that this House conducts a thorough investigation into the practices surrounding fetal tissue procurement and federally funded organizations that participate in these practices.

Taxpayers deserve to know what their hard-earned dollars fund. It is incumbent upon us, as Representatives, to ensure that Federal funds are directed only to organizations that operate fully within the law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for allowing me to speak on the floor today during this rule debate.

As a sitting member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I am proud to see my committee taking the lead on the investigation of Planned Parenthood. As a woman, a nurse, and a mother, I have fully supported the decision to defund Planned Parenthood. But as a representative of the people, our responsibilities are more than that. We have a responsibility to ask questions that will produce answers.

Our constituents deserve to know how this organization is using Federal funds, and they deserve to know which medical services they are actually providing to women. In forming this panel, we will begin finding the facts and hold Planned Parenthood accountable.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution.

As a member of the Benghazi panel, I think what we have learned from the Benghazi panel is that this House majority is not to be trusted when it comes to forming special investigatory panels. Basically, they form them for

purely partisan reasons, as Representative McCarthy admitted just last week.

The second point here is one that has been made repeatedly. There is no evidence whatsoever that Planned Parenthood has violated the law.

So what exactly is it exactly that we are investigating? Even the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight has admitted there is no evidence that Planned Parenthood has violated the law.

Third, there is a House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. In fact, just about every committee in Congress has an oversight function.

So why don't we use that instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on something like the Benghazi Committee, which is admittedly breaking all kind of records in terms of wasting taxpayer dollars? But we don't need to pile on with another wasteful committee.

□ 1615

If you want to investigate this, do it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Do it through the existing committees.

Lastly, it is incredibly important to point out that Planned Parenthood performs enormously important services to women in this country. They provide much-needed health care to poor women and much-needed family planning to poor women.

You should have a family when you want a family. If you are not prepared to take care of children, then family planning makes an enormous amount of sense. In fact, what it does is it prevents abortions. It stops women from getting pregnant when they are not ready to have children. It goes after precisely the issue that the majority is most concerned about, to prevent abortions.

Planned Parenthood deserves our support, not another wasteful, taxpayer-funded, partisan investigation.

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

Mr. Speaker, the House committees who have investigated this issue thus far have done good work, but it is clear that much remains to be done. At Energy and Commerce in particular, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations has the task of conducting meaningful and necessary oversight of several other matters within the jurisdiction of the committee.

Given the large number of expected documents to be reviewed and interviews to be conducted, the select investigative panel will permit this necessary investigation to continue without impairing the other important work of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee at the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her leadership on this issue.

She spoke a little bit earlier about the structure and the organization of the investigative panel, and I want to go back to that and help to make the point because sometimes I think, in our passion and the emotions as we talk about bills, we begin to attribute to legislation jurisdiction that may not be there.

This is a small bill. It is very explicit in how the energy of the investigative panel is going to be utilized. There are six items that they are being tasked to investigate.

Number 1, medical procedures and business practices used by entities involved in fetal tissue procurement. We know there are questions that surround this, whether it is a not-for-profit or a for-profit entity.

Number 2, any other matters with respect to fetal tissue procurement.

Number 3, Federal funding and support for abortion providers.

Number 4, the practices of providers of second- and third-trimester abortions, including partial-birth abortion procedures that may lead to a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion.

Number 5, medical procedures for the care of a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion.

And number 6 will be any changes in law or regulation necessary as a result of any of the findings which are there from the committee.

I want to clearly state this is about getting answers of how we treat and protect life in this country.

The select panel will act to centralize the investigations that are at the Energy and Commerce Committee, Judiciary and Oversight Committees, and bring it all under one umbrella.

Over the past several weeks, we have had lots of serious questions. They are troubling questions that have been asked. I think that the investigations we have had have raised a lot of those questions.

It is imperative that we centralize these operations and bring it together under one umbrella.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume because I have some important information that I got recently that I want to bring to my colleagues' critical attention.

The chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Congressman JASON CHAFFETZ, has in his possession right now a computer hard drive that contains videos produced by David Daleiden, the head of the group that tried to entrap Planned Parenthood.

Those videos are official committee records, but Chairman CHAFFETZ is refusing to give the Democratic Members a copy of those videos.

On September 22, Chairman CHAFFETZ issued a subpoena to Mr. Daleiden, who is the Executive Director of the Center for Medical Progress. The subpoena demanded that Mr. Daleiden provide all of his unedited video footage.

We believe that the videos will show how Mr. Daleiden deceptively edited his videotapes to distort the truth, but those tapes are being hidden away. It appears that the Republicans do not want the Democrats to be able to see these videos.

Chairman CHAFFETZ's subpoena explicitly required that a copy of the videos be provided to both the Republicans and Democrats. Specifically, paragraph 18 of the subpoena's schedule instructions stated, "Two sets of documents shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff, and one set to the Minority Staff."

On Friday, September 25, 2015, Mr. Daleiden delivered those videos to the committee, but provided them only to the Republicans. He did not provide a copy to Democrats, a direct violation of the subpoena.

Chairman CHAFFETZ and his staff members then refused to open the package until today, two weeks later, and now the chairman's staff is refusing to allow Democrat Members to have a copy of the videos that are only in his possession.

So I have a couple of questions I need to ask here. On what authority are the Republicans refusing to provide the Democrat Members of the body a copy of the videos?

And we know that Republicans actually have no authority to do that.

By the chairman's own subpoena, Democrats are entitled to a copy. That is explicit in his subpoena.

Another question that we must ask of our colleagues is: Last night at the Rules Committee, Representative MARSHA BLACKBURN said the intent of establishing a select committee is "to bring all the work under one panel."

Now, we know that Energy and Commerce has a hearing scheduled for tomorrow, according to one of the members. What we need to know is: Will Chairman CHAFFETZ be permitted to continue his investigation of Planned Parenthood if the select committee is in existence?

And how will that bring all the work under one panel if he is allowed to continue his own investigation if the Energy and Commerce Committee are allowed to bring theirs?

I would like to know if the chairman would assure Members of this body that he plans to immediately provide a copy of these videos to Democrats, as required by his own subpoena, so that all Members of the committee have equal access.

And I also need to know whether the chairman will be required under this resolution to immediately provide the videos to the new select panel today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for bringing those troubling revelations to the attention of the House. It shows

what a sham process this has been from the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a lot of work to do in this Congress. We have got to come together with a budget agreement to keep the government open, to invest in our economy, to deal with modernizing our transportation infrastructure in this country.

Yet, what are Republicans bringing to the floor? Another measure to create another so-called select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood, when, as we have heard today, three other House committees have already done that. And what has been the sum total of that investigation?

Well, the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee told us on national television when he was asked if Planned Parenthood had broken any laws, "No, I'm not suggesting they broke the law."

So when you don't get the answer you want, what do you do? Create another special committee.

Rather than creating a special committee, the Government and Oversight Committee owes an apology to Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood, for dragging her through a committee process that was disrespectful, where the chairman of the committee began with a chart that PolitiFact determined was a pants-on-fire misrepresentation. That is the most untrue ranking you can get from PolitiFact, Pants on Fire.

That was the gist of that hearing. And now we are learning today possible nondisclosure of certain documents. So what is happening here?

As the late Yogi Berra would say, "This is deja vu all over again."

They had many committees investigating Benghazi to try to get to the bottom of a tragedy in the House and the Senate, and all those committees concluded there was no wrongdoing.

And so what did our Republican colleague do? Spent \$5 million on a special committee on Benghazi, which, the Majority Leader just announced the other day on national television, was simply about politics, simply about hurting Secretary Clinton. So that is what this is all about.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman another 1 minute.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I want to thank the ranking member.

So that is what this all boils down to. When committees in the House and the Senate investigated Benghazi—and not just any committees—the Defense Committee, the Intelligence Committees in the House and the Senate—they all concluded that the allegations were false, that it was a terrible, awful tragedy in Benghazi, but nobody was involved in any wrongdoing.

When they didn't get the answer they wanted then, Special Committee on Benghazi, which, as we heard, turned out to be all about politics. And that is exactly what is happening now with Planned Parenthood.

Mr. CHAFFETZ just announced the results of all the hearings on Planned Parenthood. No violation of the law.

And so what do you do when you don't get the answer you want? Let's spend more taxpayer money on another special committee. This is a kangaroo court. This is a misuse of public funds.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's get on with the business of the House. Let's focus on the economy. Let's come together with a budget agreement to keep the government open.

Let's do the real work of the American people and not run a McCarthy-like hearing against Planned Parenthood and women's health. Let's do what we should be doing, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

This summer 10 videos were released that showed high-level executives at major organizations, including Planned Parenthood, StemExpress, Advanced BioResources, speaking candidly about the activities that violate Federal law.

They speak of using "less crunchy abortion techniques" to preserve organs, of "crushing" certain body parts in order to spare others, and of children killed after they "fell out," that is, after being born alive.

It is interesting to hear people criticize the videos that haven't even watched the videos. These 10 videos constitute sufficient grounds for probable cause that criminal activity has occurred.

Subsequently, thanks to the leadership of the Judiciary Committee, Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Energy and Commerce Committee, the House has begun to investigate the scope and prevalence of these activities.

Congressional discovery has already yielded important and revealing testimony. This House, as a body, has already voted to stop giving taxpayer funding to abortion providers and to ban late-term abortions, which are the abortions that yield the highly developed organs sought for medical experimentation.

Deniers of the unborn child's humanity or their human right to life have tried to ignore the clear evidence already uncovered about fetal organ procurement. The deniers have tried to discredit the videos that they are too horrified to watch. The videos speak for themselves.

The deniers have tried to create distractions. They insult pro-life Americans. They make excuses. No wonder, then, that the deniers oppose this panel. They don't want the truth to come out.

Whether you consider yourself pro-life or pro-choice, you should want the truth to come out. This debate ought to be settled by the facts.

It is Congress' duty to the American people that we find out the truth, especially as it pertains to the deaths of

millions of innocent Americans and half a billion dollars in annual taxpayer funding. That will be the task and purpose of this select committee.

We, as a legislative body, rely on good information. We ought to base our actions on the facts.

I urge support for the resolution.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD a copy of a letter to Speaker JOHN BOEHNER from Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSA DELAURO, and myself on this issue.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: We are very concerned about the hearing that House Republicans conducted in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee involving Planned Parenthood on September 29, 2015. Notwithstanding the absence of any wrongdoing, its President, Ms. Cecile Richards was cross-examined and accosted with personal questions and accusations for 4½ hours while constantly being interrupted. This hearing was not "oversight" it was a witch hunt against her personally and an ideological attack on a critical provider of women's health care.

It became apparent that the Republicans' intentions were not to investigate Planned Parenthood's receipt of federal dollars when shortly after her opening remarks Ms. Richards was questioned about her compensation which had no relevance to the hearing. Never before has a witness had her salary attacked, not even when the Committee has questioned the CEOs of companies that have actually been found guilty of breaking Federal law.

We sincerely believe that the Committee should extend an apology to Ms. Richards and refrain from such ideologically based personal attacks of its witnesses in the future particularly because there was no basis to the allegations from the outset.

In fact, Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz, who conducted the hearing, admitted that he had identified no evidence that Planned Parenthood has violated any laws during a recent appearance on CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer.

On October 1st, the Pulitzer Prize winning PolitiFact News Service awarded Chairman Chaffetz, a rating of "Pants on Fire" for springing a highly misleading chart on Planned Parenthood head Cecile Richards during her testimony at the recent hearing. The chart falsely suggested that Planned Parenthood performs more abortions than cancer screenings and prevention services.

PolitiFact found that Chaffetz's chart "suggests a conclusion that's flat wrong." It cited numerous experts who concluded that his chart is "a damn lie," "ethically wrong," "purposeful deception," "scandalous," "propagandized," "an egregious example of using a chart to mislead," and "absolutely misleading, and intentionally so."

Republican attempts to defund Planned Parenthood are clearly political and greatly misguided. The majority of Americans recognize that Planned Parenthood is an organization that plays a vital role in providing health care to women across the country. One in five women will use Planned Parenthood for primary and preventative care in their lifetime, and in 103 counties with Planned Parenthood centers, Planned Parenthood is the sole provider of these services. Republicans would eliminate the ability for those women across the country to get basic preventative care that over a lifetime can be life-saving.

After a two month investigation, conducted by three different House Committees,

considering tens of thousands of pages of documents and multiple hearings, there is no evidence to substantiate Republican claims of illegal activity by Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood has been the victim of an entrapment scheme conducted over three years in which an opposing political organization actively lied and used deceptive tactics against Planned Parenthood's employees. Clearly Planned Parenthood, and its President, was the subject of a hostile hearing in the absence of evidence of any wrongdoing.

We sincerely hope that you direct the Chairs of House Committees to refrain from conducting this type of hearing in the future and to abandon any thoughts of establishing a Subcommittee to pursue these allegations that the Chairman of the Oversight Committee admitted have not been substantiated.

Sincerely,

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN,
Member of Congress.
ROSA DELAURO,
Member of Congress.
LOUISE SLAUGHTER,
Member of Congress.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

□ 1630

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, which is just another political stunt to put the government between a woman and her healthcare provider. This is yet another instance where the House majority is exploiting their position to use hard-earned taxpayer dollars to fund partisan, baseless smear campaigns. Today we are asked to vote to do it again.

Despite finding no evidence of wrongdoing through multiple congressional committee hearings, including those conducted by the Energy and Commerce Committee, despite numerous State-level investigations that have cleared Planned Parenthood of these charges, and despite reports from outside experts that there is no evidence of illegal activity, the House seems insistent on doubling down on this bad idea to waste taxpayer money and time on yet another fabricated investigation.

It is time to say "no more." There are far too many real issues facing our country that Congress should, instead, be addressing. Vote "no" on this resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last month, Pope Francis admonished a joint session of Congress to follow the Golden Rule, to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and said that the Golden Rule compels us to "protect and defend human life at every stage of development" and that "it is wrong to remain silent and look the other way."

Establishing this select committee is the right thing to do. We simply can't

remain silent or look the other way. Instead, Congress needs to thoroughly investigate profoundly disturbing conduct by top-level Planned Parenthood officials. Caught on tape—and I have watched all the tapes, Planned Parenthood's top leadership, not interns or lower level employees, showed callous disregard for children's lives while gleefully calculating the financial gain derived from the sale of baby body parts.

We already know that every day Planned Parenthood dismembers or chemically poisons to death approximately 900 unborn babies. Since 1973, more than 7 million children have been violently killed in Planned Parenthood clinics.

Now, because of the CMP videos, Planned Parenthood's involvement in trafficking in baby body parts has been revealed. In one clip, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Medical Services says on camera: "We have been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, and because we know that, I am not going to crush that part. I am going to basically crush below, I am going to crush above, and I am going to see if I can get it all intact . . . I would say a lot of people want liver; and for that reason, most providers will do this case under ultrasound guidance, so they will know where they are putting their forceps."

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, this is a dismemberment abortion—arms, legs, torsos, decapitation—but the prized body part is preserved, pulled out intact, and then sold to brokers.

This needs to be done. We haven't lost our sense of being shocked.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this wasteful maneuver by Republicans in Congress to establish yet another investigative committee at a cost of untold millions of taxpayer dollars.

It is unconscionable to establish such a committee without any basis to do so and at a time when Congress should be focused on higher wages, modern infrastructure, and the basic responsibility to pass an appropriations plan for America. But no, action on all of these pocketbook issues for American families and businesses is being shoved aside by Republicans in Congress for a witch hunt based upon false YouTube videos that are full of distortions and misinformation.

Republican attacks on Planned Parenthood and women's health care is part of an unfortunate pattern of assaults over the last two decades. But this latest maneuver borders on an abuse of power. At best, it is an attempt by Republican leaders to dis-

tract the American public from their failure to do their job.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill and get back to the business of hardworking Americans.

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, what is unconscionable is the callous disregard for unborn babies that has been exhibited for far too long in our culture and which has been brought home to us full force by these videos that we have seen.

Mr. Speaker, the organizations and providers to be investigated by this select panel maintain a culture with a callous disregard for life.

Recently, a series of undercover videos have exposed in horrifying detail what Planned Parenthood values. They show the organization's leaders admitting to haggling over the prices for the limbs and organs of aborted children; callously recounting the harvesting of a brain from a fully intact, aborted child; admitting that clinics collect "specimens" without informed consent and that abortionists will alter the procedure to keep intact in-demand organs.

These videos make clear that neither women's health nor the well-being of their tiny victims will stand between Planned Parenthood and profit.

Since the release of these videos, the big money behind the pro-abortion political machine has kicked into high gear to obfuscate what services organizations like Planned Parenthood truly provide.

We hear about breast cancer screenings, but not a single Planned Parenthood clinic has a mammogram machine. We have heard repeatedly that abortions account for only 3 percent of Planned Parenthood services. The Washington Post Fact Checker assigned this data point, along with others pushed by Planned Parenthood, three Pinocchios. It is also clear from Planned Parenthood's own annual reports and testimony to Congress that a significant portion of its annual non-governmental revenue comes from abortion.

The undercover videos alone would merit full investigation and review, but the problems at Planned Parenthood are not limited to those discussed in the series by the Center for Medical Progress.

We know that Planned Parenthood clinics in several States have failed to report sexual abuse of young girls, enabling and empowering those who would exploit them:

Just this year, the Alabama Department of Public Health found that a clinic in Mobile performed two abortions on a 14-year-old girl in a single 4-month period without reporting suspected sexual abuse.

Just last year, an Arizona Planned Parenthood counselor intentionally miscoded the sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl by a serial predator as a consensual encounter.

Also last year, a Denver clinic failed to report the rape of a 13-year-old girl

by her stepfather, who brought her to the clinic for an abortion.

Mr. Speaker, the list of outrageous acts by these abortion providers goes on and on. It is past time that we investigate and understand just what type of organizations our tax dollars are subsidizing.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say what any woman in this room could say: your doctor determines whether you need to go to a radiologist to get a mammogram. None of us get that in our doctor's office, unless it is a most unusual place, and I know you gentlemen wouldn't know that.

I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), an Energy and Commerce Committee member.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the creation of a select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood.

Let's be clear: this is just another political witch hunt, this time targeting women, their trusted organization, and women's health.

Now, let's talk about the Republican vision for women of America. Just look at their record. First, they passed a budget that completely eliminated title X—that is contraception—the only Federal grant program dedicated to family planning, and slashed funding by 80 percent for the teen pregnancy initiative by over 80 percent.

Then we find that last week the Republicans proved that this witch hunt is not just aimed at Planned Parenthood. They passed a bill that threatened funding for every doctor, clinic, and hospital that dares to participate in abortion services. They also want to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which requires insurance companies to cover maternity care. They don't want to expand Medicaid, which currently covers one out of every three births and more than 43 million children. In fact, they want to turn Medicaid into a block grant program. And Republicans have proposed huge cuts to education.

I want to say to my Republican friends: Be careful what you wish for. The women of America are watching.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, many of us have the memory of the back alley abortions and the many dead young women who cried alone without any help. None of us want that. None of us want women to have to make that choice. But we know the Supreme Court has established as the law of the land *Roe v. Wade* as a matter of choice, and that this procedure is a medical procedure.

Planned Parenthood does not sell body parts. Planned Parenthood has a very infinitesimal amount of fetal research. Planned Parenthood is not the

person who ganged up on them and planned these horribly disorderly, if you will, videos and stole the ID of his high school friend to do these horrible videos.

Abortions have gone down. And so we come again to another Benghazi-like committee where we are ignoring the law. We are allowing unilateral subpoena, even if they are consulting, where we are looking at abortions that are done, but are not done by Federal money.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to vote against this bill that is doing nothing, Mr. Speaker, but politicizing a Presidential candidate and attacking women—attacking women, attacking health care.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 461, which would establish a Select Investigative Panel of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The ostensible purpose of this Select Investigative Panel is to investigate and report on all issues related to medical procedures and practices involving fetal tissue donation and procurement; federal funding and support for abortion providers; and late-term abortions.

But make no mistake, the Republican majority's real purpose in establishing this panel is (1) to open another front in their ongoing War Against Women, (2) impede women in the exercise of their right to make their own choices when it comes to their reproductive health, and (3) to persecute, smear, and demonize Planned Parenthood.

We know this from our experience with the so-called "Benghazi Committee," which the Republican leadership claimed was a non-partisan inquiry into the facts and circumstances surrounding the 2012 tragedy in Libya which claimed the lives of four brave and heroic Americans.

We know now, as confirmed by the Majority Leader and the Speaker-apparent, that the Benghazi Committee was in reality part of politically motivated strategy to disparage and damage the former Secretary of State and leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination that has wasted \$4.5 million of the taxpayers' money.

The Chairman of the Benghazi Committee sent to Committee Members an investigative plan that set out monthly hearings with all the different agencies involved in preparing for and responding to the attacks in Benghazi, including the State Department, the Defense Department, and the Intelligence Community.

But after the New York Times' email story broke on March 2, however, the Chairman completely abandoned this plan and began focusing almost exclusively on Hillary Clinton.

Since then, the Committee has not held any of the hearings on his schedule, and his upcoming hearing with Hillary Clinton is the only hearing now scheduled.

Abandoned are plans for hearings that were to have been held in April with former Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary Leon Panetta.

The Committee has never held even one public hearing with anyone from the Department of Defense.

The only hearing the Committee has held with an intelligence official, was with the CIA's head of Legislative Affairs regarding the status of document production.

Mr. Speaker, with so many pressing challenges facing our nation, wasting time and taxpayer money on another partisan witch hunt is a luxury we simply cannot afford.

The structure and powers to be given the Select Investigative Panel does not inspire any confidence that it will operate in a fair and impartial manner.

For example, the composition of the committee is lopsided in favor of the majority (8 Republican; 5 Democrat), instead of more equally divided as select committees usually are comprised.

Second, H. Res. 461 gives the chairman of the select panel subpoena power and deposition authority, including the authority to order the taking of depositions by a member of the select panel or the panel's counsel.

Third, the resolution authorized the chairman to recognize members to question witnesses for periods longer than the traditional five minutes and to recognize staff to question witnesses.

Taken together, these unusual powers are susceptible to abuse and are valued tools to any party wishing to conduct a fishing expedition as opposed to a dispassionate search for facts.

Mr. Speaker, let me save our Republican colleagues some time by pointing out the facts that an objective, fair-minded inquiry would reveal.

In 2011, approximately 1.06 million abortions took place in the U.S., down from an estimated 1.21 million abortions in 2008, 1.29 million in 2002, 1.31 million in 2000 and 1.36 million in 1996.

Based on available state-level data, an estimated 984,000 abortions took place in 2013—down from an estimated 1.02 million abortions in 2012.

Fetal tissue research has been scientifically accepted since the Reagan Administration.

In 1988 the Human Fetal Tissue Transplantation Research Panel (or the Blue Ribbon Commission) sought to separate the question of ethics of abortion from the question ethics of using fetal tissue from legal elective abortions for medical research.

The report of this commission laid the foundation for the NIH Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (which passed overwhelmingly with bipartisan support), prohibits the payment or receipt of money or any other form of valuable consideration for fetal tissue, regardless of whether the program to which the tissue is being provided is funded or not.

The law contains a limited exception that permits reimbursement for actual expenses (e.g. storage, processing, transportation, etc.) of the tissue.

These fees generally amount to less than \$100.

Less than 1% of Planned Parenthood chapters participate in this area of research.

Planned Parenthood reports revenue by source (either government or non-government)

rather than the manner of disbursement (income versus grants and contracts).

Payments from Medicaid managed care plans are listed as "Government Health Services Grants and Reimbursements" to reflect the ultimate source of the funds.

Planned Parenthood spends about \$1.1 billion annually on 11.4 million services, 83% of which is spent on research, client services and education.

Client services are divided into six categories: Cancer Prevention and Screenings, STI Testing, Contraception, Abortion Services, Other Women's Health Services & Other Services.

According to Planned Parenthood financial statements from 2009–2014, 86% of Planned Parenthood's Services fall under the categories of Cancer Prevention and Screenings (12–16%), STI Testing for men and women (35–41%), and Contraception (32–35%).

Only about 3% of its services fall under the Abortion category nationally.

Additionally, Planned Parenthood is already prohibited from spending federal funds on abortion services anyway.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 461 is an irresponsible diversion from tackling and addressing the following critical challenges facing this Congress and the American people, and if unresolved pose grave threats to our economy and communities across the country:

The Highway & Transit Trust Fund expires on October 29, endangering good paying jobs and critical construction projects throughout America;

Treasury Secretary Lew has notified the Congress that the debt limit is expected to be reached on November 5 and action must be taken to raise the limit to protect the full faith & credit of the United States and prevent interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards and car payments soaring;

Funding to keep the government open expires on December 11 and Congress must find a way to keep the government open in the face of irresponsible opposition from 151 Republicans who voted to shut down the government rather than allow women access to affordable family planning and life-saving preventive health care.

In addition, American small businesses and manufacturers continue to suffer from Republicans' refusal to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. Speaker, we have far more important things to do than waste more time and taxpayer money on another partisan attempt to deprive women of their right to make their own decisions regarding their reproductive health that has been recognized as constitutionally guaranteed since 1973 by the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

I oppose H. Res. 461 and urge all Members to join me in voting against this wasteful and irresponsible measure.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this charge laid about subpoena powers is a red herring. Every House committee holds subpoena power, though the structure differs depending on the committee. Granting this standard authority to

the select panel ensures its ability to investigate thoroughly the issues within its scope. It would make little sense to convene a select investigative panel with limited investigative power.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is left on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York has 10 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 11 minutes remaining.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank my friend for yielding and for her great leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 461, to create a select committee on investigating Planned Parenthood.

I take very seriously the congressional responsibility to investigate wrongdoing and improve transparency, but this panel is not at all about due diligence. It is about purely partisan politics, an attempt to “Benghazi” Planned Parenthood.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, six States have investigated Planned Parenthood and found nothing. Four committee hearings have found nothing. Planned Parenthood has handed over tens of thousands of pages of documents to Congress, and there has not even been a whiff of wrongdoing. Even the chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has said he has no evidence of anything unlawful.

This panel would be a waste of Congress’ time and taxpayers’ money. I urge my colleagues to vote “no” and stop this relentless crusade attacking access to health care for women who desperately need it and cannot afford it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear about the budget for the select panel. The resolution does not authorize or appropriate additional resources for this panel. It will use existing funds solely.

Further, one of Congress’ most important duties is oversight of how scarce funds are spent, and that oversight is a proper use of the limited budget the House and its committees receive.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, here we are again with Republicans attacking women and Planned Parenthood on the House floor. But now the attacks are taking the form of yet another politically inspired committee.

As with the Benghazi committee, Republicans are not seeking out truth or

better policy. Instead, they want to use taxpayer-funded resources for a political witch hunt.

Here are the facts: Abortion today is protected by our Constitution, and we have found no wrongdoing by Planned Parenthood so far in the three House investigations that are already taking place.

Another fact: Planned Parenthood helps women. Every year Planned Parenthood provides 2.1 million patients with family counseling and contraception. They are trying to prevent unwanted pregnancies from occurring in the first place, something that my Republican colleagues should support. Let’s not use lies and edited tapes to unfairly color and bring down this organization. We should be better than that.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this committee. I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution to create a select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood. Well, here we go again. Planned Parenthood is the new Benghazi.

Under the ruse of saving lives, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would use the resources of the United States Government to pursue their extreme agenda. The targeting of Planned Parenthood is a gross abuse of political power to punish a trusted organization because it provides a full array of health services that includes abortion, and it sends a chilling message to anybody who would dare to give women choices.

Mr. Speaker, to quote a well-known political thinker, “There is no greater tyranny, than that which is perpetrated under the shield of law and in the name of justice.”

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 461. This resolution supposedly establishes a select panel to investigate Planned Parenthood and fetal tissue procurement.

Now, what do we know already, Mr. Speaker? What facts do we know? We know that these videos have already been entirely discredited and debunked by a team of independent forensic experts. What do we know? We know that women have a legal right to a safe and legal abortion.

What do we know already, Mr. Speaker, while we are investigating Planned Parenthood? We know that fetal tissue procurement signed into law by the venerated Ronald Reagan provides lifesaving research for diseases like Parkinson’s, ALS, and others.

No, Mr. Speaker, you are not trying to find the facts. Instead, this is just

another pathway to deny a woman a right to a safe and legal abortion.

We already know that the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee said that there is no “there” there. We don’t need to get to the bottom of this. Mr. Speaker, we are already at the bottom of this.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Let me thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for your tremendous leadership on this vital issue and so many issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 461, which really is nothing more than a politically motivated bill. It would establish a select Energy and Commerce Committee to so-call investigate Planned Parenthood.

How outrageous. Let’s be clear. This is nothing more than yet another attempt to attack Planned Parenthood and undermine a woman’s right to choose.

There have already been multiple hearings and committee investigations, none of which have resulted in any evidence of wrongdoing, and this shameful resolution is the fourth anti-choice vote we have had to take in the last month alone.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We know that Planned Parenthood centers are critical to the health of women all across the country. One in five women have used Planned Parenthood services at some point in her lifetime for vital services like birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and STI screenings.

Continuing attempts to restrict access to these health services would hurt our most vulnerable women, including low-income women and women of color.

You want to restrict access to family planning, and you want to restrict access to safe and legal abortions. Come on. It is time to stop this war on women.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my good friend from New York.

Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time in less than 1 month that I have been compelled to voice my opposition to a measure attacking women’s health care.

This is just what Congress does not need, another polarizing battle in Congress. I have been on the Energy and Commerce Committee for 20 years, and this is the wrong thing to do. This is just absolutely the wrong thing to do.

The American public wants to see us pass a budget, a transportation bill, keep the government open, do the Export-Import Bank and other things that are important.

What are we doing, getting into another political brawl? We don’t need

another committee like Benghazi, which should be abolished.

The Washington Post reported last week that more Americans have supported continued Federal funding for Planned Parenthood than opposed it in every single public survey taken this year.

I don't want to infringe on women's rights to choose whatever is right between them, their doctor, their family, and their God, and I don't think Congress should either.

My friends on the other side of the aisle talk about wanting smaller government. I don't want government to be so big that it intrudes on women's privacy and women's health. This is ill-thought and should be defeated.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution. It is beneath the dignity of this Chamber to participate in an ideological witch hunt, especially one based on entirely false allegations.

The chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee spent hours last week cross-examining Planned Parenthood's president about these claims, and even he has publicly admitted that they have no merit. So let us call this proposed committee what it really is, the select committee to attack women's health.

The majority wants to kill Planned Parenthood. If they succeed, many low-income women will have nowhere left to go for breast cancer exams, Pap smears, and a range of other lifesaving services. So this resolution tells these women flat out: We do not care about your health care. We do not care if you die.

The hypocrisy of the majority is breathtaking. One minute they condemn all government spending—even on health care for some of our poorest families—and now they plan to spend millions of taxpayers' dollars on a politically motivated witch hunt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this disgraceful resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), our colleague.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I was in my office watching the debate, and I thought, well, if I really thought I was innocent, if I really thought there was nothing that really went with what the other side is claiming, if I really thought I needed to wipe the slate clean, if I really thought that sunlight is truly the best antiseptic.

Forget about the organization. Let's talk about the act. This is one of the most repulsive things you can watch. It turns your stomach to see our unborn—our born—listen, little boys and

little girls being dissected and being sold. It is a criminal activity.

So my question comes down to—and if you read "Rules for Radicals," the best way to counteract a charge against you is to go after those who are attacking you and make them the bad person.

I don't understand. In America's House, when we want to have a debate, when we want everybody in America to look and say that this was fair, we are talking about an investigation that, if we are false, if the claims are false, it would wipe the slate clean.

Most people who think they have been wrongly accused of something say, "Bring the facts out. Let everybody see them. Let's have the conversation. Let's have the debate. Let's really determine if this is really going on." Only someone who is afraid it may go against them would say, "No. No. No. You can't do this."

I want to tell you, as far as women are concerned and a war on women, I am the father of four children, three boys and one girl. But I have ten grandchildren, six girls and four boys. There is not one of them that, when it comes to how much I love them, it is gender-selective. I love them all in the same way.

In a country that has always stood for human rights, in a country that has always stood for others, for the most vulnerable—and I will not disguise it and say it is not what I am. I am from conception to natural death. I am in favor of life. I will always be in favor of life.

But to have this debate today and to say that you can't possibly do this because it is driven, it is a Republican agenda, because it is a war on women, if anything, this is a war for women.

We have got to protect these people. If there is anything that is a preemptive strike in the war on women, it is gender-selective abortion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask all Members, not as Republicans and not as Democrats, but as members of the human race, and for a House that just abhors what is going on around the world and saying that this is horrible what is going on and we won't ever let this happen in our country, why would we be having this debate today?

If you really want the slate to be clear, if you really want the world to see that there is nothing going on here, then let's have an open investigation so, at the end of the day—I don't care what organizations—they can walk away and say, "See, we proved that we aren't who they say we are."

Mr. Speaker, this is just so simple. Why would you argue against it? It actually works to their advantage if it is not true. If it is true, then why in the world would we use hard-earned Amer-

ican taxpayer money to fund illegal and criminal activity? That is just not who we are as Americans.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, since a series of deceptive and highly edited videos taken at Planned Parenthood facilities were released to the public, three separate congressional committees have leapt to conclusions, holding hearings and investigations along the way.

However, on the subcommittee on which I serve as ranking member and which has primary jurisdiction over this matter, we did extensive research. We found out that Planned Parenthood broke no laws according to an extensive memo prepared by the Democratic committee staff.

So now what are we going to do? We are going to spend millions of taxpayer dollars having another sham committee. That is a ridiculous waste of money.

I have a proposal for all of my colleagues. Let's spend our time talking on the things that our constituents want their hard-earned taxpayer money spent on: reauthorizing the highway bill, addressing the looming expiration of our debt ceiling, not to mention an overdue bill for funding the Federal Government. That is what they care about.

I just want to say once again, for the umpteenth time, for the RECORD, there is no public money spent on abortion. There is no Federal money spent on abortion. So what we are talking about right here is a totally useless and expensive investigation.

□ 1700

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

A sure sign that the Republican Planned Parenthood hearing failed is that they are now embracing their default, the much-discredited Benghazi Select Committee strategy. But, the Government Reform Planned Parenthood hearing left Planned Parenthood as strong as ever. The majority is trying to do to the Nation's women what they have done to D.C., now deprived of the right to spend even local funds on abortion. But no Federal funds go to abortion, so what is left? Women's health care.

All that this witch-hunting select committee will do is highlight the new GOP war on women.

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

We are being told by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we

should be comforted by the fact that the Democratic committee staff did an investigation of Planned Parenthood and found nothing wrong. I think I can say very well with tongue in cheek that is truly like putting the fox to guard the henhouse.

Mr. Speaker, in a few moments I will offer an amendment to the resolution. The amendment will make several changes to the resolution that have been requested by the minority. The amendment will change the ratio on the panel to eight Republicans and six Democrats, giving Democrats an additional one member on the panel. The amendment will also make sure that the select panel's subpoena authority is consistent with existing Energy and Commerce Committee rules.

We have no objection to the requested changes, and we hope this will encourage our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to participate fully in this important investigation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, if we have heard anything this entire day, it is the misuse of public tax money for useless select committees overdoing investigations that everybody that has investigated before has already said that there is no "there" there.

We don't need to take the word—although I am happy to do it—of Mr. PALLONE last night saying that the Democratic staff on Energy and Commerce had found there was nothing wrong here. Let's take Mr. CHAFFETZ's word for it. He spent 5 hours delving into what Planned Parenthood does and does not do, and he said, no, they have not broken any law.

But that is not good enough because everybody is doing so well here making political points and attacking a Presidential candidate. That is not our job. In fact, I am pretty sure that is against Federal law for us to use public money for that kind of action. We did it not once, we are going to do it twice, and who knows how many more times before the end of this year.

The big disgrace that is going on is the misuse of tax money of the American people in a House and a Congress that has no budget, no highway bill, no way out, and people who sit at home trying to figure out how they are going to educate their children, put food on the table, keep their job, and even drive on roads that are unfit to get to work.

I would really appreciate it if we would stop this select committee and stop trying to take health care away from American citizens and get to work on their behalf.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the opponents of this resolution would have Americans believe that this oversight is unnecessary and political. Nothing is further from the truth.

Oversight into entities' use of Federal funds and compliance with Federal law is a fundamental responsibility of Congress and one exercised by both parties, frequently on a bipartisan basis.

It is unfortunate that my colleagues across the aisle are refusing to join with us on this particular issue, but charges that it is a politically driven investigation are false. The investigation to be continued by the select investigative panel at the Energy and Commerce Committee is prompted by allegations that abortion providers that receive Federal funds are dismembering children to sell their body parts, possibly while violating Federal laws.

The most fundamental right our government was formed to protect is life; and when taxpayer dollars are being used by organizations flagrantly violating that right, we are morally compelled to investigate and respond in accordance with our Constitution.

The select investigative panel formed by this resolution is consistent with precedent, including two panels formed by my colleagues across the aisle when they were in the majority. It is laser-focused on the issues raised by the videos and subsequent investigation into Planned Parenthood of fetal tissue collection, abortion procedures, and the Federal laws surrounding those practices. Its existence as a separate body will allow it to complete the full investigation these allegations deserve without shortchanging the important other issues under consideration by the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the full House.

It is disappointing that some Members do not want the full truth to come out. When Federal taxpayers have legitimate concerns that their hard-earned dollars are flowing to organizations that sanction the dismemberment of unborn children and that our system of laws have loopholes allowing these atrocities to continue, we as their elected representatives are responsible for ensuring these concerns are heard and responded to.

If we as elected representatives of our great Nation can't shed our callousness toward the most vulnerable lives in our society and heed the moral cause of this issue, I have a great fear for our Nation's future and the cruelties we may someday allow other lives to be subjected to. Our freedom rests on the cornerstone right we all have to life, and I fear we have lost sight of that.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. FOXX

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 1, line 7, strike "five" and insert "six".

Page 1, line 5, strike "13" and insert "14".

Page 3, line 12, insert ", consistent with the notification, consultation, and reporting requirements of rule 16 of the rules of the

Committee on Energy and Commerce," after "select panel".

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and expose the truth about these outrages through a thorough investigation. We must have the courage to follow the facts wherever they lead in order to strengthen our laws to end these barbaric practices and ensure that unwanted children are no longer discarded in the bins of parts for sale by profit-hungry abortion providers.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 461, legislation to establish a select panel to investigate the matters that were brought to the forefront in a series of shocking and disturbing videos recently released by the Center for Medical Progress.

These videos, which show Planned Parenthood officials engaging in the sale of aborted baby body parts, must be fully investigated with the utmost detail and attention.

Ten videos so far have been publicized depicting Planned Parenthood engaging in fetal tissue trafficking. These actions are despicable, unspeakable and barbaric.

This select committee will also, investigate, the practices of businesses involved in the second and third trimester abortions, including partial birth abortions and procedures that lead to babies being born alive in attempted abortions.

It's a national disgrace that taxpayer dollars account for 41 percent of Planned Parenthood's revenues, which also serves as the nation's largest abortion provider.

The creation of this investigative panel is an important step in getting to the truth and holding the recipients of taxpayer dollars accountable for what they do.

It is wrong to take money out of the wallets of hardworking Americans and hand it over to organizations like Planned Parenthood.

This select committee will investigate this issue thoroughly—a responsibility that the Obama Administration has refused to do.

I look forward to the panel's findings.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to the establishment of the panel to investigate Planned Parenthood. The panel's clear partisan aim is to take down Planned Parenthood, an organization providing quality, affordable health care to millions of Americans.

Every person has the right to make informed, independent decisions about their health, sexual activity and family planning. Yet, women's reproductive rights continue to come under constant attack at both the state and local levels. For all the rhetoric we have heard about how the government should not be in the business of providing health care, the Majority is all too eager to step in and regulate women's access to health services.

It is unconscionable that the Majority continues funneling taxpayer dollars to support purely political agendas. Millions were spent defending DOMA after the Justice Department decided it was no longer prudent policy. Even more money is being spent suing President Obama over the Affordable Care Act, even after the Supreme Court upheld the ACA's constitutionality not once, but twice. Most recently, more than \$4 million has been spent politicizing the terrorist attack in Benghazi. The Majority now demands we use even more taxpayer dollars to attack an organization providing health care to those who need it most,

ignoring Congressional committees that found no wrong-doing on the part of Planned Parenthood.

Women's access to health care is challenged over and over again, despite America's high maternal death rate. Women in the United States face a one in 1,800 risk of maternal death, the highest risk of any developed country. In 2014, the overall U.S. health care system ranked last among industrialized nations for the fifth time and is still the most expensive system in the world. The health disparities among our nation's racial and ethnic groups are a disgrace. We should focus our attention on these issues.

Let's call this exactly what it is, a partisan attack against a single, reputable organization. An attack based on highly edited, unsubstantiated statements and videos. This is a waste of time and taxpayer funded resources. We must get back to doing the people's work and put a stop to the constant attempts to roll back women's rights.

I strongly oppose this Resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the amendment and on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the order of the House today, this 15-minute vote of adoption on House Resolution 461, as amended, will be followed by 5-minute votes on the motion to recommit H.R. 3192, and passage of H.R. 3192, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 184, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 538]

YEAS—242

Abraham	Carter (GA)	Ellmers (NC)
Aderholt	Carter (TX)	Emmer (MN)
Allen	Chabot	Farenthold
Amash	Chaffetz	Fincher
Amodel	Clawson (FL)	Fitzpatrick
Babin	Coffman	Fleischmann
Barletta	Cole	Fleming
Barr	Collins (GA)	Flores
Barton	Collins (NY)	Forbes
Benishek	Comstock	Fortenberry
Bilirakis	Conaway	Foxx
Bishop (MI)	Cook	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (UT)	Costello (PA)	Frelinghuysen
Black	Cramer	Garrett
Blackburn	Crawford	Gibbs
Blum	Crenshaw	Gibson
Bost	Culberson	Gohmert
Boustany	Curbeo (FL)	Goodlatte
Brady (TX)	Davis, Rodney	Gosar
Brat	Denham	Gowdy
Bridenstine	Dent	Graves (GA)
Brooks (AL)	DeSantis	Graves (LA)
Brooks (IN)	DesJarlais	Graves (MO)
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Griffith
Buck	Dold	Grothman
Bucshon	Donovan	Guinta
Burgess	Duffy	Guthrie
Byrne	Duncan (SC)	Hanna
Calvert	Duncan (TN)	Hardy

Harper	McHenry	Rothfus
Harris	McKinley	Rouzer
Hartzler	McMorris	Royce
Heck (NV)	Rodgers	Russell
Hensarling	McSally	Ryan (WI)
Herrera Beutler	Meadows	Salmon
Hice, Jody B.	Meenan	Sanford
Hill	Messer	Scalise
Holding	Mica	Schweikert
Huelskamp	Miller (FL)	Scott, Austin
Huizenga (MI)	Miller (MI)	Sensenbrenner
Hultgren	Moolenaar	Sessions
Hunter	Mooney (WV)	Shimkus
Hurd (TX)	Mullin	Shuster
Hurt (VA)	Mulvaney	Simpson
Issa	Murphy (PA)	Smith (MO)
Jenkins (KS)	Neugebauer	Smith (NE)
Jenkins (WV)	Newhouse	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (OH)	Noem	Stefanik
Johnson, Sam	Nugent	Stewart
Jones	Nunes	Stivers
Jordan	Olson	Stutzman
Joyce	Palazzo	Thompson (PA)
Katko	Palmer	Thornberry
Kelly (MS)	Paulsen	Tiberi
Kelly (PA)	Pearce	Tipton
King (IA)	Perry	Trott
King (NY)	Peterson	Turner
Kinzinger (IL)	Pittenger	Upton
Kline	Pitts	Valadao
Knight	Poe (TX)	Wagner
Labrador	Poliquin	Walberg
LaHood	Pompeo	Walden
LaMalfa	Posey	Walker
Lamborn	Price, Tom	Walters, Mimi
Lance	Ratcliffe	Weber (TX)
Latta	Reed	Webster (FL)
Lipinski	Reichert	Wenstrup
LoBiondo	Renacci	Westerman
Long	Ribble	Westmoreland
Loudermilk	Rice (SC)	Whitfield
Love	Rigell	Wilson (SC)
Lucas	Roby	Wittman
Luetkemeyer	Roe (TN)	Womack
Lummis	Rogers (AL)	Woodall
MacArthur	Rogers (KY)	Yoder
Marchant	Rohrabacher	Yoho
Marino	Rokita	Young (AK)
Massie	Rooney (FL)	Young (IA)
McCarthy	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (IN)
McCaul	Roskam	Zeldin
McClintock	Ross	Zinke

NAYS—184

Adams	DeGette	Kelly (IL)
Aguilar	Delaney	Kennedy
Ashford	DeLauro	Kildee
Bass	DelBene	Kilmer
Beatty	DeSaulnier	Kind
Becerra	Deutch	Kirkpatrick
Bera	Doggett	Kuster
Beyer	Doyle, Michael	Langevin
Bishop (GA)	F.	Larsen (WA)
Blumenauer	Duckworth	Larson (CT)
Bonamici	Edwards	Lawrence
Boyle, Brendan	Ellison	Lee
F.	Engel	Levin
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Lewis
Brown (FL)	Esty	Lieu, Ted
Brownley (CA)	Farr	Loebach
	Fattah	Lofgren
Bustos	Butterfield	Lowenthal
Butterfield	Capps	Lowe
Capps	Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham
Capuano	Fudge	(NM)
Cárdenas	Gabbard	Lujan, Ben Ray
Carney	Galleo	(NM)
Carson (IN)	Garamendi	Lynch
Cartwright	Graham	Maloney,
Castro (FL)	Grayson	Carolyn
Castro (TX)	Green, Al	Maloney, Sean
Chu, Judy	Green, Gene	Matsui
Cicilline	Grijalva	McCollum
Clark (MA)	Gutiérrez	McDermott
Clarke (NY)	Hahn	McGovern
Clay	Hastings	McNerney
Cleaver	Heck (WA)	Meeks
Clyburn	Higgins	Meng
Cohen	Himes	Moore
Connolly	Honda	Moulton
Conyers	Hoyer	Murphy (FL)
Cooper	Huffman	Nadler
Costa	Israel	Napolitano
Courtney	Jackson Lee	Neal
Crowley	Jeffries	Nolan
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Norcross
Cummings	Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke
Davis (CA)	Jolly	Pallone
Davis, Danny	Kaptur	Pascarell
DeFazio	Keating	

Payne	Sanchez, Loretta	Titus
Pelosi	Sarbanes	Tonko
Perlmutter	Schakowsky	Torres
Peters	Schiff	Tsongas
Pingree	Schrader	Van Hollen
Pocan	Scott (VA)	Vargas
Polis	Scott, David	Veasey
Price (NC)	Serrano	Vela
Quigley	Sewell (AL)	Velázquez
Rangel	Sherman	Visclosky
Rice (NY)	Sires	Walz
Richmond	Slaughter	Wasserman
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)	Schultz
Ruiz	Speier	Waters, Maxine
Ruppersberger	Swalwell (CA)	Watson Coleman
Rush	Takai	Welch
Ryan (OH)	Takano	Wilson (FL)
Sánchez, Linda	Thompson (CA)	Yarmuth
T.	Thompson (MS)	

NOT VOTING—8

Dingell	Hudson	Walorski
Granger	Sinema	Williams
Hinojosa	Smith (TX)	

□ 1735

Mr. CURBELO of Florida changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 538, I am not recorded as voting because of prior commitments in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted “Aye.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF THE C-130J CRASH AT JALALABAD AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Six airmen assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing perished on Friday, October 2, 2015, when their C-130J aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff at Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan. Five civilians also died in that crash.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those who lost loved ones in this tragedy.

Today we honor the sacrifice of these airmen who served at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas, and Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts. They are:

Captain Jordan Pierson, 28, of Abilene, Texas. I had the honor of nominating Jordan to the Air Force Academy;

Captain Jonathan Golden of Camarillo, California;

Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond of Moundsville, West Virginia;

Senior Airman Quinn Johnson-Harris of Milwaukee, Wisconsin;

Senior Airman Nathan Sartain of Pensacola, Florida;

Airman 1st Class Kcey Ruiz of McDonough, Georgia.

I ask all my colleagues to stand and join me in a moment of silence.