

Yesterday, I proudly joined my friend and colleague Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida along with Pennsylvania Senators PAT TOOMEY and BOB CASEY to reintroduce the Combat Online Predators Act.

This bill would increase criminal penalties for the stalking of children and help ensure law enforcement officials evaluate and update practices to combat online stalking of children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few things more sinister than preying on innocent children. Millions of Americans, including the most vulnerable among us, are harmed each year by stalkers. Here in Congress, we must work in a bipartisan manner to eliminate the digital footprint of predators to protect the kids in our communities and in our Nation.

I am deeply grateful for the support and advocacy of the Zizzo family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who serve as an inspiration for this piece of legislation, the Combat Online Predators Act, and for survivors everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to work with all of my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, to advance this legislation and other solutions to stop stalking in all of its forms.

#### DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS MUST COME TOGETHER TO RE- OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a freshman who came here to get things done on the 26th day of the longest government shutdown in American history.

For 26 days, we have had to explain to 800,000 dedicated, patriotic Americans why we will not pay them for their service to our country, even as they must keep paying for their rent, their medicine and their kids' educations.

For 26 days, we have had to explain why small business owners can't get loans; why food safety inspections are suspended; why lines are growing and terminals are being shut down at our airports; why we are willing to jeopardize the safety of air travelers; why we can't protect our National Parks from desecration; and why, if securing our country is so important, we aren't paying the Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection officers whose job it is to secure it.

In the last few days, I have been hearing from college students in my district who have until February 1 to apply for financial aid, but they can't access their tax transcripts from the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Why are we doing this to ourselves? The President says it is because of border security. But if we are honest, we know that that is not what this is about. If getting \$5.7 billion for a border wall is important

enough to inflict this much suffering on Americans, why didn't the President pick this fight in the 2 years when his party controlled both Houses of the Congress?

Why is he doing this now? I think we know the answer. I fear that for the President the chaos is sometimes not a means to an end, but an end in itself. He doesn't want a wall, he wants a fight over the wall; not a compromise to open the government, but a conflict that dismantles the government. And that raises the stakes for all of us.

For this is not about how we secure the border, as important as that is to all of us. It is about how we govern our country. We have a chance now to say, once and for all, Presidents are entitled to try to persuade us to support their priorities, but if they fail to persuade us, they are not entitled to shut the government down to get their way.

None of us, not Democrats or Republicans, are entitled to hold hostage the basic functions of our government to force our will on others. And if we give into this tactic now, it will be used again, and again, and again. We will have chaos in our government for as far as the eye can see.

So how do we solve this problem? We will not solve it by abdicating our responsibility in the Congress and waiting for the President to agree on something. If we wait for that, we will be waiting forever.

We will not solve it by encouraging him to use emergency powers or to use our military to defy the Congress. That would tear another hole in our constitutional fabric.

We will solve it when the House and the Senate Democrats and Republicans come together to say: This is not how we do business in a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, instead of enabling this abdication of responsibility by the White House, let us rise to our responsibility in the Congress. Let us work together to reopen the government by passing the same bills we were all willing to vote for across party lines last year, and then let's sit down together as adults to talk about immigration and the border as part of the debate about funding the Department of Homeland Security when both sides can put their ideas on the table and find common ground.

If we do that, we will not only address border security, we will break this pernicious practice of taking the American people hostage when we don't get our way.

We can make this the shutdown to end all shutdowns.

#### LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small town in Kansas, and perhaps the most respected person in the city was our family physician, Dr. Norman Oberholtzer.

Dr. Oberholtzer delivered my brother, my sister, and, of course, me. He saved my life. He had saved many people's lives. By the time I was in 9th grade, I knew I wanted to be a physician just like Dr. Oberholtzer. I worked hard and with the support of my family and friends was able to get into medical school, and by the time I was a second-year resident, I was supposed to decide what type of physician was I going to be.

Go back to February of 1987, and we had our first baby, a little girl named Lauren. And the second she was born, the moment I heard her first cry, I said: This is what I want to do. I want to deliver babies the rest of my life.

So as an obstetrician for the next 30 years, every day I got to see 10, 20, 40, sometimes 50 pregnant women. It was a great experience and there were some very special visits that I really looked forward to with those moms. Their first visit for a first-time mom was always a special moment.

The moms came in. They had a twinkle in their eyes and they may have been throwing up for 3 or 4 or 5 days already, but there was still a sparkle in their eye and excitement.

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Sometimes I would get to do a sonogram at that first visit. Believe it or not, about a month after conception, Mr. Speaker, you can see a baby's heartbeat. They would come back at about 12 weeks for their next visit. By then, their nausea was improving, and we could hear a baby's heartbeat on the Doppler for the first time.

They came back again at about 18 weeks, and I would ask them: Do you feel the baby move yet?

Again, the mom's eyes would sparkle that they are feeling that baby move. I would notice when I would touch the mom and when I would touch the baby, the baby would push back. If there was maybe a brother or a sister in the room, if that brother or sister spoke, I could feel the baby move, and I could actually hear the heart rate increase of that little baby inside that mom.

Then, of course, later on, the favorite moment of my entire life was always getting to hear that first cry of that newborn and give that baby to a proud mom and dad.

So those are great, great times.

Mr. Speaker, I am often asked when I think life begins. I hope you can relate from the stories I just shared that I don't have any other choice but to believe that life begins at conception and that those babies are people, and they deserve our respect and our protection.

Mr. Speaker, this week, we will be welcoming 200,000 people to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

I especially salute some students who are coming from Beloit, Kansas, and Concordia, Kansas. Like many students, they will be riding a bus for 24 hours. I am so proud of them, and I look forward to seeing them. I appreciate their efforts to put their words into actions.