

Mr. Speaker, as a doctor for over 25 years, I have delivered thousands of babies. I certainly understand the responsibility I have as a Member of Congress to protect the life of the unborn. In the last 2 years, this House, thanks to a Republican majority, has passed countless bills to limit abortion, end taxpayer-subsidized abortion, and prohibit abortions of unborn babies over 20 weeks. Unfortunately, these bills never made it to the President's desk.

Today, the United States is one of seven countries in the world that allows babies old enough to feel pain and survive outside the womb to be torn limb from limb. This list of seven includes China, North Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, and a list of other human rights offenders that our Nation, this country, should not be proud to be part of.

Each year, more than 600,000 abortions are performed across this country, costing our country precious lives. The fact is, only one in seven Americans support legal-under-all-circumstances *Roe v. Wade*, and still, Congress refuses to act.

Over the course of my first term, I made it a top priority to fight for those who can't fight for themselves, and I will continue to do so. Abortions are an injustice to the unborn and are a complete disregard for life. Congress should prevent taxpayer money from ever being funneled into immoral organizations like Planned Parenthood and finally put an end to abortion. I will unapologetically stand with the children, with these babies, who do not have a voice of their own to fight.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DIONNE PHILLIPS BAGSBY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Dionne Phillips Bagsby.

Dionne was a very strong leader in the Fort Worth community. She served as a role model to so many people, including myself, and she really was driven by her work to desegregate the Fort Worth schools when she first came to Fort Worth. That really spurred her to run for the county commissioner's seat in precinct one in 1988.

When she ran, she became the first woman and the first African American to become a Tarrant County commissioner. She did a tremendous job for Tarrant County and the city of Fort Worth.

Throughout her 16-year tenure, Dionne fought to improve public education and increase access to health resources for women and children. Her former precinct administrator, who is now the county commissioner, Roy Charles Brooks, said it best when he said that Dionne was not a politician, she was a public servant.

In 2005, I was proud to be a part of the Texas Legislature and honor her for a lifetime of service.

Again, she was a mentor and mentored so many young women throughout Fort Worth who sought to replicate her success. She helped them aspire to careers that would challenge the norm. She always encouraged those young women to never give up. Dionne broke barriers for the African American community, for women, for the disadvantaged, for the disabled, and for so many others, including myself.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you and will be honest with you, if you ever met Dionne, you will know that she was very much into straight talk. She did not mince words, and she always cut right to the chase. But I will also tell you, as I mentioned before, that Dionne was a tremendous mentor.

When I was elected to the State Legislature in 2004, Dionne was the first person to call me up, and we went and had lunch. When I got married later, she called my wife and me up, and we went and had lunch with her. When I came to Congress and was elected in 2012, she was one of the first people to call me up, and she; Lorraine Miller, who was a former Clerk of the House here; my wife; and I all went and had dinner. She was more than happy to dispense good advice that was very, very helpful to me.

Mr. Speaker, Dionne was also very instrumental in bringing a lot of firsts to Fort Worth. I mentioned her work with the schools, her being the first Black and first woman on the county commissioners court. But her legacy still lives today through The Links. She was one of the legacy members of The Links in Fort Worth. The Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, she got a national charter for that venerable organization and had the first meeting in her living room in southeast Fort Worth.

Mr. Speaker, if you ever went to any of Dionne's receptions while she was still in office between that 1988 and 2005 time period, you will know that one of the things that she liked to do was give shout-outs. She gave shout-outs to everybody from people in her family to the person who was her trainer.

I am going to give a shout-out to some of her family members and special friends today—and everybody back home, please forgive me if I have left out anyone—her daughter, Dionne Anne Jones; her son, Jimmy Bagsby; her husband who preceded her in death who was also on the Fort Worth City Council, Jim Bagsby; her grandchildren, Kirbe, Josiah, Kelli, and Elijah; and her brother, Paul Phillips.

She had so many friends whom she would like to give shout-outs to, including one who preceded her in death, Dr. Erma Johnson Hadley, her dear friend; Norma Roby; Bob Sanders; Jesse Gaines; again, Lorraine Miller; Gwendolyn Morrison; Viney Chandler; and, again, County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, who was also someone Dionne mentored and who was her precinct administrator before he became

county commissioner. He also was a very, very dear friend.

We lost a giant in Fort Worth by losing Dionne. She will be missed because she was a friend to so many and always had so many colorful, wonderful, and humorous things to say. But I can tell you that our city is better off and our county is better off because Dionne Bagsby moved to Fort Worth with her husband and helped make it a better place for everybody.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are traveling to Washington for the 46th annual March for Life.

Fighting for the rights of the most vulnerable Americans has been my most precious responsibility since long before I was elected to Congress. Most notably, I can remember marching to defend our unborn children when I was pregnant with my son Stephen in January of 1990. Last year, I was proud to march just days after my first granddaughter, Isabella Marie, was born. This Friday, the day of the March, we will celebrate Isabella's first birthday.

Again and again, I am reminded that life is beautiful, that children are a blessing, and that we must do all we can to support our Nation's mothers.

Though now we have a divided Congress, there is still so much we can do to lift up women and children. This month, my colleagues and I called on President Trump to veto any legislation that weakens Federal policies against abortion.

We are fortunate that the administration is taking action to protect life. The President has reinstated President Reagan's title 10 protect life rule, so that our tax dollars don't fund abortion providers like Planned Parenthood and others. This is widely popular policy.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, new public polling shows that millennials prefer that their tax dollars go to federally qualified health centers rather than abortion providers like Planned Parenthood by a 3-1 margin. Only 7 percent of millennials share the position of the Democratic Party platform that abortion should be available without any exceptions and funded by your tax dollars.

The administration is heeding the concerns of the American people. Just last month, the National Institutes of Health announced it will fund up to \$20 million to find alternatives to using human fetal tissue in research projects. The U.S. Government should end all contracts that use baby body parts. We must preserve the integrity in scientific research by protecting pregnant women and their children.

This month, I am introducing two bills to defend life. The first is the

Born Alive Act, which will require all healthcare providers to give babies who survive abortions the same level of care as other newborns and to ensure that they are immediately admitted to a hospital. The illegal fetal tissue trafficking industry profits most from abortions that increase the likelihood of a live birth. Congress must provide born-alive infants with lifesaving care, not exploit, kill, and sell them to the highest bidder.

I am also introducing the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, or PRENDA, which will prohibit sex-selection abortions or forcing a woman to obtain a sex-selection abortion. The sad truth is that victims of sex-selected abortions are overwhelmingly female. It is estimated that 117 million girls are demographically missing from around the world due to sex-selection abortions, infanticide, and other forms of gender-based violence.

Girls are targeted for abortions not only in countries like China and India, but right here in the United States. These abortions victimize both mother and daughter and have no place in a just society.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much bipartisan work we can do to protect America's mothers and babies, and I hope we can act together to serve and protect all God's children.

I thank all of those who will march for life this week. I stand with them, and I will continue to fight and pray for the day when abortion is not only illegal but is unthinkable.

#### RECOGNIZING SAM JOHNSON FOR DECADES OF SERVICE TO UNITED STATES

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today as the Representative for Texas' Third Congressional District. This district was first represented by William Thomas Clark, a general in the Union Army in 1870. Since then, 19 people have represented the district, including myself. Most recently, a true American hero, Congressman Sam Johnson, represented the Third District in the Congress for 28 years.

Prior to that, Congressman Johnson was in the U.S. Air Force. As I like to say, he shot down his first MiG in Korea. He served a ground tour in Vietnam, and in his second tour of Vietnam, on his 46th mission, he was flying his jet over an enemy gun position when his gun jammed. He did a circle around. He flew a second time, and that time, he was shot down. He then went to the Hanoi Hilton. There, he survived pernicious beatings and torture.

But, Mr. Speaker, do you know what? Despite the tremendous pressure that he was under, Sam Johnson was unique among the prisoners of the Hanoi Hilton in that he never broke; he never

gave in; and he never wavered in his patriotism, his faith in God, his courage, his sacrifices, and his commitment to this country.

America is eternally grateful for his service.

After he got back from the Hanoi Hilton, he came back to his beloved Shirley and his children back in Texas. He was in the Air Force for a while, and then he went into business.

But he wanted to continue to serve. In 1984, he ran for the Texas House of Representatives, and he was elected in the Third District in a special election in 1991.

Here in the United States Congress, he served for 28 years. He served on the Ways and Means Committee and continued to be an icon of virtue, a paragon of service, and a man whose shoes I can never truly fill but in whose footsteps I resolve to try to walk in.

#### RIGHT TO LIFE

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a fundamental human right, a right declared to be an inalienable right by our Founders who proclaimed we are all created equal and have the God-given right to live—to live freely and to pursue happiness.

Our Founding Fathers carefully articulated that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the human rights that encompass the American way and are the logical foundation for freedom.

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Unfortunately, it seems that Planned Parenthood has a logic problem. The CEO of Planned Parenthood tweeted just last week that the organization's "core mission is providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion and reproductive healthcare." And she called the procedure of an abortion a "fundamental human right."

Mr. Speaker, abortion is not a human right. Abortion, to the contrary, is death. Abortion is the antithesis of life, the fundamental human right.

For years, we have been fed the same argument that Planned Parenthood operates to ensure women's health and prenatal care, but straight from their CEO, we know this is not the truth. Planned Parenthood's mission is abortion. Planned Parenthood's mission is death, and their actions prove it.

Planned Parenthood ended the fundamental right to life through 321,384 abortions in 2016. That is 881 abortive deaths per day. This means that every 98 seconds a life was extinguished by Planned Parenthood.

The CEO said in the same tweet that the organization "will never back down from that fight" to not only expand access to abortion but to deem it a human right.

Mr. Speaker, as freedom-loving Americans, we must stand on our core

principles that all are created equal, and we cannot back down from the fight to preserve life and to protect those who can't protect themselves.

I look forward to continuing work to ensure that our taxpayer dollars do not fund death and abortion, a procedure that denies the right to live and contradicts the core founding principles of our freedom and our Nation.

#### IN SUPPORT OF LIFE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support life.

Mr. Speaker, 46 years ago when I was a senior in high school, it was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, or the U.S. Supreme Court felt, that the United States Constitution required abortion be legal in this country, despite the fact that, for much of the past century, every State in the Union felt that abortion should be made illegal. This decision directly led to the deaths of over 40 million children who should have been living a full life.

John Adams said that our Constitution was meant for moral and religious people. How can a country built for a moral, religious people living under our Constitution allow this to happen?

We know how it happened. About 10 years ago, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg let the cat out of the bag. This decision was meant to prevent the growth in populations we don't want to have too many of, the progressives' dream.

But how did the progressives get their dream? Some politicians sometimes talk about science and say we don't take into account science enough around here.

It is interesting that, in 1973 when this decision was reached, we didn't have ultrasounds. Now, with ultrasounds, it is more apparent than ever that every new baby in that womb is a unique individual, with its heart beating, with its feeling pain. Nevertheless, we continue to ignore that science and continue to allow this horrible stain on our culture.

Indeed, right now, the United States is one of only seven countries to allow late-term abortions. There we are, in the same list as North Korea, China, and Vietnam. I guess you can kind of look back and see why, in the sixties, the progressives would talk about Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh and why they wanted the Communists to win in Vietnam. This is probably one of the reasons, the type of country that they like.

Our forefathers wanted this country to be a country that would shed a light on the world. Nevertheless, we appear to be going backwards. The new majority recently brought a bill to the floor to allow the United States to pay for abortions abroad again.

Is this what we want America to be known for: the United States telling