

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, this House passed H.R. 1797, the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, with bipartisan support. To this date, the Senate has not considered this measure to protect the lives of innocent children in the womb from the cruel, excruciating pain of an abortion procedure. This is unconscionable.

I fear for the conscience of our Nation because the termination of unborn children for any reason is tolerated in some parts of our country throughout pregnancy, even though scientific conclusions show infants feel pain by at least 20 weeks' gestation.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the American people understand exactly what happens when they hear the word "abortion." It is a heart-wrenching, painful procedure that tears a baby limb from limb before crushing his or her head or is a poisonous chemical injection. As a country, we should leave this practice behind. That is why I co-sponsored and voted for H.R. 1797, which would prohibit elective abortions in the United States past 20 weeks.

Life is the most fundamental of all rights. It is sacred and God-given, but millions of babies have been robbed of that right in this, the freest country in the world. That is a tragedy beyond words and a betrayal of what we as a nation stand for.

Before liberty, equality, free speech, freedom of conscience, the pursuit of happiness, and justice for all, there has to be life. And yet, for millions of aborted infants, many pain-capable and many discriminated against because of gender or disability, life is exactly what they have been denied.

An affront to life to some is an affront to life for every one of us. One day we hope it will be different. We hope life will cease to be valued on a sliding scale. We hope the era of elective abortions, ushered in by an unelected Court, will be closed and collectively deemed one of the darkest chapters in American history. But until that day, it remains a solemn duty to stand up for life.

Regardless of the length of this journey, we will continue to speak for those who cannot. We will continue to pray to the One who can change the hearts of those in desperation and those in power, who equally hold the lives of the innocent in their hands.

May we, in love, defend the unborn. May we, in humility, confront this national sin. May we mourn what abortion reveals about the conscience of our Nation.

H.R. 1797 provides commonsense protections for unborn children who feel pain just as you and I do. It is time the Senate considers this measure and protects the vulnerable among us.

OPPOSING U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN IRAQ

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to come today and add my voice and my constituents' voice to the situation in Iraq. I wanted to voice my strong opposition to any further United States military intervention in Iraq.

I don't think we should be sending our men and women back to Iraq or to engage in air strikes. I don't believe that this is the right course of action. Our Nation's military involvement in Iraq, I think, needs to be over.

The United States has already spent trillions of dollars in Iraq while, here at home, our economy is still suffering. Our schools are going without needed funding. Families in my district are struggling to find jobs, to put food on the table, and our own infrastructure is crumbling.

My colleague earlier, on the other side of the aisle, talked about Esther and her great line of "for such a time as this," which is something I actually try to live by, but I don't believe that this is the time to go back and fight a war that I don't believe is ours. I believe it is the time for America to focus our resources here at home.

We can't afford to spend millions of dollars on this military action when our schools are failing, one in five children lives in poverty in the United States, and so many of our veterans are not being taken care of when they come home.

I don't sit on the Committees of Armed Services, of Foreign Affairs. I am not on the Intelligence Committee. I sit on the Small Business Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. From that perspective, I know that our small businesses want us to help them. Our infrastructure is failing and crumbling. We have 70,000 bridges in this country that are structurally deficient. I believe that we need to focus our resources here at home.

We have had nearly 4,500 brave men and women that sacrificed their lives for what I believe was a misguided mission in Iraq. More than 30,000 Americans have come home emotionally and physically scarred. Let's not do this again.

I don't think we have any place trying to solve a modern-day civil war. I think enough is enough. I hope, before the President takes action, he will come to Congress and ask us and the people that we represent what action needs to be taken.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, we take in approximately \$39 billion a year for the highway trust fund to take care of transportation needs all over this country. We have spent \$103 billion over the last several years rebuilding Afghanistan. Now they tell us projects all over this country will have to stop because of a \$15

billion shortfall in our highway trust fund.

Today and tomorrow we will have before us a Defense bill that has a \$79 billion placeholder for overseas contingency operations over and above the regular Defense budget. It has been this amount or much more over the last several years.

This OCO account is primarily for Iraq and Afghanistan, where we are still spending megabillions. We should take at least some of this money to cover the shortfall in the highway trust fund to keep these projects and jobs going all over the U.S.

We have spent far too much blood and treasure in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last few years, and that needs to stop. Mr. Speaker, we need to stop spending all of these billions in Iraq and Afghanistan and start taking better care of our own people and our own country.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT WILLARVIS "DEE" SMITH

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Chief Master Sergeant Willarvis "Dee" Smith, who, this week, will be retired after an illustrious 28-year career in the United States Air Force, a career that spanned many decades and took him to many continents across the globe.

I am personally honored and grateful that Chief Smith is here in the House gallery today as we celebrate his outstanding career and service and congratulate him on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Smith was born and raised in the district that I now have the privilege to represent. In fact, he was raised in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, graduated from Northwestern High School, the school just to the north of Northern High School, my high school.

Shortly after graduation, he entered the Air Force in 1986, where he completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Upon graduation from his technical training as an aircraft maintenance specialist for the B-52 in Texas, he was assigned to many stations, including New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Maryland, Virginia, and Hawaii.

During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, he was deployed in Saudi Arabia, afterward also serving 2 years at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. In 1991, Chief Smith held the rank of staff sergeant. Over his 28-year career in the U.S. Air Force, he was promoted five times: first, to technical sergeant; then master sergeant; then senior master sergeant; and lastly, in 2010, he was promoted to chief master sergeant, the highest ranking enlisted position in the Air Force.

As the chief enlisted manager of the Directorate of Communications of the