

forced people to flee from El Salvador over the border into the United States by the tens of thousands. Starting with President Reagan, through President Bush and President Clinton and on, we haven't enforced our borders for that entire time, and now 11 million people in this country are suffering with this uncertainty because we failed to enforce our borders.

I am all for securing our borders, but let's return to being a beacon of hope to the rest of the world, and let's stop the suffering and the anxiety as we push people underground and we treat them as nonhuman beings, entitled to human respect and human dignity.

I believe that this is the greatest country on Earth, and I believe that my dad knew that. He also knew that a central part of our being the greatest country on Earth is being that beacon of hope to so many people, that said to the tired and the poor yearning to breathe free: Come to our shores.

If we really want to make America great again, we have to reclaim that mantle of being that beacon of hope.

I agree with all the wise comments that have been made by my colleagues here today that the votes do exist in this House to resolve this issue if we could get a bill put on the floor. There are so many groups, so many Democrats, so many Republicans meeting throughout this town on a regular basis to try to find a compromise to solve this problem—Democrats and Republicans—but because there is nothing on the floor, we can't get the votes presented in a public way. If it was put on the floor, it would pass. We would have DACA. We would have the Dream Act. We would have solutions to border security.

We need to recognize that we are all in this together, and we need to rise up to the challenge to be the beacon of hope that we once were and still should be to the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CASTRO for giving me the opportunity to speak.

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Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for sharing his dad's life story and what this country meant to him and the importance of coming up with a solution, a fix, as soon as possible.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I want bringing up one thing I forgot to mention.

I was the young mayor of the city of Glen Cove in 1994, and we had day workers from Central and South America gathering on the street corners seeking work. The community was divided. This was 1994. Just think how long ago this is now, 23 years ago.

One group saying: Get those people out of here. And other people saying: These poor guys are trying to live the American Dream the same as your family did.

I ended up setting up the first day-worker gathering spot anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America in 1994. It was one of the first

things I did as mayor. We ended up bringing them indoors. If you didn't get hired for the day, you could learn a skill, you could learn to speak English, you could learn about the cultural norms of our community. We said: If you play by the rules, we are going to help you. If you break the rules, you are going to get in trouble.

The same guys that were on the street corners now have their own businesses, they own their own homes, and their children go to school with my children. That is the American Dream.

We have so much potential in this country if we could unleash it for people who want to work 6 days a week and go to church on Sunday, if only we could remove this anxiety and this threat that we are pushing people underground and forcing them into an underground economy and underground communities. If only we could lift this back up again, we could accomplish so much.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for reminding us of something that is often lost in this conversation and debate, which is the fundamental humanity of the people that we are talking about. Whether they have a green card, whether they are documented or undocumented, the fact that we are talking about the lives of human beings, too often that is lost in what is sometimes a contentious debate.

Mr. SUOZZI. Think about it. You are a kid going to school, you are worried about taking tests. You are working every day, you are worried about your job. You are worried somebody is sick in your family. You are worried you don't have enough money to pay your bills. The normal concerns of life. Heap on top of that a national debate that is treating you as a pariah and creating such anxiety to rip families apart. Think about how challenging that must be for those individuals, those families that are facing that type of threat.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. There is no question that for a lot of them, as you talk to them, you can see what a soul-crushing experience it is, and, as your dad wrote in his yearbook, I think many of these kids have the same feeling. They want to be fully accepted as real Americans, which they obviously feel part of this country, feel like it is home, but are not sure whether America accepts them.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just to make some closing remarks before I yield back the balance of my time, Congress has to take action now. We can't wait any longer for another 122 DREAMers every day, DACA recipients, to become subject to deportation, and certainly can't get to March where 800,000 of the DACA kids will lose their futures in America and become subject to deportation.

The issue of immigration and border security, all of these things are among

the thorniest issues in American life no matter where you go in the country.

But we are a nation of immigrants, and this is one way that we will gauge the soul of this Congress and of this Nation and determine whether we are going to continue to live up to the Nation that we strive to be, which is a nation of immigrants, of people from different countries who have made such a beautiful, incredible, strong and powerful nation, have crafted that Nation together.

And I would just remind those who are against the DACA kids, who would argue for inaction, who argue that they should get the hell out of here, that this country has been blessed throughout the generations that people from every corner on Earth have wanted to come to the United States of America. Fifty years ago, if you asked somebody who was living in Europe or Asia or Latin America or anywhere else around the world where on Earth they would want to go if they were going to leave their home country, the answer 50 years ago was very clearly the United States of America.

There is a scarier day in this country than the day when everybody wants to come here. That is the day when nobody wants to come here. The challenge for all of us as legislators and basically as Americans is to make sure that when you ask that same question of somebody 50 years from now who is living abroad where on Earth they would want to go if they were going to leave their home country, that they still feel comfortable believing it is the United States of America.

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

THE MARCH FOR LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor, as we approach the March for Life on Friday, to remember the infamous Supreme Court decision that has resulted in the loss of some 60 million unborn babies and tens of millions of women who have been harmed. Sixty million have been killed, a number that equates with the entire population of England, as a result of that very misguided and sad and tragic decision.

It is my honor, as we open up this Special Order, to yield to Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI from Indiana, a distinguished Member of this body who serves on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate life, to stand for the idea that every human life is a gift from God, and to join my colleagues in renewing our commitment to defend the inherent dignity of every person born or unborn.

This week, we will vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which says that a baby born after a failed abortion attempt should be given the same medical care as a baby born any other way.

The same day, hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans will march on the Nation's capital to celebrate the sanctity of life. Those who march for life come from every corner of the Nation to be voices for the voiceless and to defend the most vulnerable among us. Such compassion, their dedication to this worthy cause, gives us hope that, through service and action, we can foster a culture of life.

Mr. Speaker, each and every life is precious. That is why we must continue to be tireless in our work to defend the sanctity of life and to protect the unborn.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her very strong and powerful statement.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to ROBERT PITTENGER from North Carolina, who is the author of the No Abortion Bonds Act, a bill that would close loopholes in the Tax Code that allow abortion providers to finance new clinics and facilities with local bonds that are exempt from Federal taxes. Congressman PITTENGER serves on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of our Nation's greatest tragedy. I would like to thank Chairman SMITH so much for his leadership over the past 35 years. He has been unrelenting in his commitment and support of life, and I have the deepest respect for him.

Today marks Roe v. Wade's 45th anniversary. Since that ignoble decision, over 60 million precious, innocent unborn babies have been intentionally killed by abortions in the United States.

In light of the anniversary and the March for Life event, I would like to share the words of the late Mother Teresa:

"But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself.

"And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

"How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love, and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even His life to love us.

"So the mother who is thinking of abortion should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts."

Mother Theresa goes on to say:

"By abortion, the mother does not learn to love but kills even her own child to solve her problems.

"And, by abortion, that father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. That father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion.

"Any country that accepts abortion"—Mother Theresa says—"is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the great destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

The work of this body, Mr. Speaker, must be to correct this tragedy to protect the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves.

We hope and pray for those who stand in darkness on this grievous loss of life and who have been advocates of abortion. Who would know the mind of God regarding these 60 million precious souls, that He may have given to some of them the cure for cancer or Alzheimer's or Parkinson's or many other diseases? God is merciful, but we must recognize our own responsibilities and affect for our own actions.

This week, we have the opportunity to outlaw the diabolical practice of killing babies who survive an abortion, something incredibly barbaric, by passing the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

I also urge my colleagues to join me in support of the No Abortion Bonds Act, legislation I introduced to block Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers from using tax-exempt, taxpayer-backed bonds to finance their abortion clinics.

Ours is a great cause, greater than us, greater than this generation. It is a battle for the very soul of what we stand for as a nation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, we do have several physicians who serve in this Congress who are very, very pro-life and very eloquent in their defense of life.

I yield to Congressman ANDY HARRIS, who is associated, obviously, with Johns Hopkins, the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me the opportunity to serve as the co-chair of the Pro-Life Caucus and to speak briefly today on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

Mr. Speaker, for the last hour, those of you who listened, and there are a lot of people watching who listened, was a discussion about the humanity of individuals, the humanity of people here in America, and how we need to deal with it, how we need to respect it, how we need to take that humanity into consideration. And we will. That had to do with the DREAMers. It was about DACA.

But for this hour, we are going to talk about 1 million human beings a year who lose their life through abortion in the United States—one million human beings per year.

Now, why do I emphasize human beings? Because the science on this is

very clear. These are human beings. From the moment of conception, their genetic makeup is unique from every other human being in the world and uniquely human.

So how can we not consider those 1 million human beings a year who lose their life to abortion not the greatest human rights challenge that faces us here in the United States?

When we have the March for Life in 2 days, we are going to see many people from the millennial generation, many young people, who I think realize, because they have grown up and they learn in their science class, that these, in fact, are 1 million human beings every year who lose their life in the United States. They realize the science is clear. They are human beings. They deserve the protection of this Congress.

We are going to deal with the issues that they talked about last hour, and then the Congress should turn its attention to ending that human rights abuse for those 1 million human beings every year who lose their life to elective abortion right here in the United States.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership over the decades on this issue. The struggle is not over. This human rights issue is not over, but hopefully, thank God, one day it will be.

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Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. HARRIS for his very eloquent remarks and for reminding us that this is the greatest human rights struggle on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the chairwoman of the Education and the Workforce Committee. Ms. FOXX has been a lifelong leader on the issue of life and, of course, in leadership, and now as a full committee chairman. I thank the gentlewoman for all she does on behalf of the unborn and their mothers each and every day.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to join my colleagues who all thank the gentleman tonight for the fantastic leadership that he has given to this issue for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to affirm the dignity of the estimated 59 million children whose lives have been terminated by abortion in the United States since 1973. This Friday, tens of thousands of Americans will bear witness to the value of the unborn at the 45th annual March for Life, united in opposition to the life-degrading Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade.

The right to life is first among the inalienable rights of the Nation's Declaration of Independence. It is imperative to safeguard life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; those necessary conditions for people to flourish. Unfortunately, as evidenced by Roe v. Wade, our society too often values happiness at the expense of human life.

However, amid this culture of death, the pro-life movement fights for life

with love. And this year's March for Life theme, "Love Saves Lives," truly embodies the spirit of the pro-life movement. Look no further than the 2,200 pregnancy centers across the country dedicated to serving pregnant women and new mothers. There are many in my district and I am very proud of them.

These pregnancy centers empower women with life-affirming options and offer medical testing, prenatal care, and ultrasounds. They also provide parenting classes, baby supplies, and financial assistance to help meet the emotional and material needs of pregnant women.

Many offer information about the beautiful option of adoption and provide referrals to connect birth mothers with loving families for their babies. The babies cared for in these clinics are loved before they are even born and the women are offered the love and support they need. These clinics recognize life as a precious gift and embrace a life-affirming option despite adverse circumstances.

We live in a society that mistakes choice for liberty. But the beauty of living in a free country is that we can use our liberty for love. On Friday, the march will speak for the unborn, but the pro-life movement is more than just words. It is love in action every day, affirming the value of life at all stages, no matter the difficulties it presents.

Striving to love daily is not easy, yet it is the greatest exercise of our freedom, and there is no life unworthy of that love.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman FOXX again for her very moving words, which are backed up by her actions each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This past Sunday, I stood at the side of a casket of a beloved longtime friend who had just turned 95 years of age 5 days before. Up until almost her dying day, she was vibrant, was committed to life, touching lives of people, changing lives and making an impact in the world.

I am rejoicing today in a different way because of two brand-new lives that have been born: one to a staff member, and another to a former staff member of mine. Brand-new babies with an opportunity to be dreamers in this world.

Who knows what their lives will be, but isn't this what it is all about?

Life that is lived has impact and then goes on, and new lives to follow, ultimately to have impact, have dreams, and make a difference, and truly establish the divine plan that is the sanctity of life.

This week we are observing the 45th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the

44th March for Life. There are people like us, like Congressman SMITH, who have, for the past 35-plus years, been leading this challenge here. It was 35 years ago that I left my dream job as pastor of a local church to speak for life in the halls of the State legislature and end taxpayer-funded abortion.

In Michigan, we still have a law that says abortion is not lawful, but because of Roe v. Wade, we march again this year speaking for life, speaking for the defenseless, speaking for those who would desire, who would dream to be found in a world that they can change.

How did we get into this situation, especially when we have in that Declaration of Independence the immortal statement that says: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights," among them, the right to life—the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

John Adams, our second President, said: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

May we redouble our efforts to be that moral people that stand on things that are timeless, that were designed by our Creator, God.

Let me end with this: one of our good friends and former colleagues here in this Chamber, one night, gave me a poem that meant a lot to him. As I read that poem, it changed me as well.

It is entitled, "The Anvil," and it simply says:

Last eve, I passed a blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vespers chime;
Looking in, I saw upon the floor old hammers,
worn with beating years of time.
"How many anvils have you had," said I, "To wear and batter all of these hammers so?"

"Just one," said he;
And then with twinkling eyes, "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
And so, thought I, the anvil, called the Master's word,

For ages, skeptic blows have beat upon;
And though the voice of fallen blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed and the hammers gone.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the truth of miracle and blessing of life will prevail and the right to life will be protected for all. Even as we find the anvil stand firm, so will the truth of God's creation of human life. It will remain. Let us all who honor life never give up.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), who is a member of the Navy Reserve and who serves on the House Armed Services Committee; the Veterans' Affairs Committee; and the Space, Science, and Technology Committee. He is championing the Patients First Act to prioritize ethical stem cell research that will help patients and do no harm to the youngest members of the human family.

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his tireless efforts on behalf of the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation was founded on the universal principle that all people have a God-given right to life. "All" includes every single human being, regardless of race, gender, or age. Throughout our Nation's history, we have continually fought to draw closer to this ideal. However, there is still so much more work to do.

Forty-five years ago, the Supreme Court made a tragic decision in Roe v. Wade, and since then, more than 60 million innocent lives have been lost. Every single one of those lives was important and unique. Tonight, as we reflect on those lives lost as a result of Roe v. Wade, we also celebrate that our culture is increasingly recognizing the value of human life.

A recent Marist Poll found that an overwhelming majority of the American people want substantial limits on abortion. Another poll found that 61 percent of Americans opposed using tax dollars to fund abortions within the United States, while 83 percent of respondents opposed subsidizing abortions outside of the United States.

Last year, the House took an important step by passing the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This bill would prohibit any elective abortion attempt on an unborn child who is 20 weeks or older, the age at which research shows us that children are able to feel pain. Sixty-three percent of Americans support a 20-week abortion ban, and I am hopeful that our colleagues in the Senate will pass this bill later this month.

We also must work to ensure that taxpayer dollars do not continue to support the abortion industry, including Planned Parenthood, our Nation's largest abortion provider.

Life is a precious and sacred gift worth fighting for. Tonight, I urge my colleagues to stand for human rights and equal justice by standing for our Nation's most vulnerable, the unborn. Let's make the cause of life the cause of our time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), from the Third District, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think the interesting part of our conversation tonight is what we are talking about. We are talking about the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act; the born-alive abortion survivors. This is such a commonsense bill, it just protects our children.

I wonder what people think about this: in the case of an abortion or an attempted abortion that results in a child being born alive, any healthcare practitioner present must exercise professional care to preserve the life of the child. The child must be immediately transported and admitted to a hospital.

This bill is needed to protect our children. Americans have seen the horrifying videos of Planned Parenthood, and the Judiciary Committee has heard testimony from women who have survived and whose children have survived abortion.

But I think what is more chilling than anything, in the United States of America—the biggest defender of life, and liberty, and freedom in the world, that is our history—we have to pass a law that protects children who survive an attempted abortion. These are children that are born alive. It is incredible that we have to even have that discussion in the people's House, especially the United States of America.

Where have we become this depraved of what our moral constitution needs to be?

It is unbelievable that we have to come to this House and on this floor and defend those lives.

Now, it has been said oftentimes that 90 percent of life is showing up, because when you show up, people know you care. On Friday, hundreds of thousands of Americans from all over our country will come to Washington, D.C., in the March for Life. They have done this for 45 years. For 45 years, their passion has never diminished. For 45 years, they have made the trip to Washington, D.C., so that our country's leaders, political leaders, understand the sanctity of life. It is incredible that we have to go through this process.

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The United States is only one of seven countries in the world that allows abortion after 5 months. I wish we would quit using the term 20 weeks—5 months. Who is included in that group? North Korea, Vietnam, and China. What a wonderful group to be part of.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman because he has fought this fight for so long. I ask Mr. SMITH to just think of the last 45 years, the number of people who have come here, the number of people who have marched for life, and we talk about what it is that we are trying to get to.

Now, we know there has been 60 million abortions—60 million little boys and little girls who never got to live the full potential of their life. But through the efforts of the pro-life movement, what we can count are the numbers of expectant mothers who were going to have an abortion, but, through the efforts of people like CHRIS SMITH, stopped and thought for a minute about what it was they were actually going to do, and that was end a life. We don't have those numbers, but I have to tell you, they have to be off the charts.

Another thing I think is so important, for those folks who did go through an abortion, it is time for them to know that there is forgiveness and there is mercy. There is always room in our hearts to embrace them and get them through that difficult period.

Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how important this piece of legislation is. It is just so chilling. I am going to repeat it again: a law that allows children who are born alive in an attempted abortion have got to be protected by the people's House. Where in our hearts, as human beings, do we not understand the basic moral obligations and rights that we have?

It is just so hard to come here year after year to do this. But for 45 years—for 45 years—they have shown up in droves, millions and millions of Americans, talking about life and protecting life. We have another chance this Friday for all of us to show up and for all of us to be there. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of life is showing up because people know you care.

I thank Mr. SMITH of New Jersey so much for showing up for 45 years. We do know the gentleman cares, and we do know his compassion and his dedication to life.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I just remind everyone this is a total team effort. One of the beauties of the pro-life movement—and I have been in it for 45 years—is that it is filled with incredibly compassionate, selfless people who would do anything to help the weakest and the most vulnerable. So I thank the gentleman for his leadership for all these years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS), who is the famous gentleman who serves on the Appropriations Committee where so many of these battles are engaged.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KELLY. What inspiring words. I thank Congressman SMITH for his incredible leadership. I am so proud to stand with my colleagues today to support the right to life.

I commend all of those who will be coming to our Nation's Capital this week, including from my home State of West Virginia, to let their leaders—us—know that we are a country that values life and human decency.

Each and every life is a precious gift from God. It is our responsibility to stand up for the unborn who were made in God's own image. They have no voice. We must be their voice. I am proud to join my colleagues in using our voices to protect life and to stand up for the unborn. I am proudly pro-life.

As we near the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we grieve for the lost lives. We pledge to protect the babies yet to be born. No taxpayer should be forced to pay for abortions. That is why I have consistently supported legislation to repeal ObamaCare and to defund Planned Parenthood.

I was also proud to be a cosponsor of the recently passed Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would stop late-term abortions and the torturous pain that comes as the result of this despicable practice.

I am also a proud cosponsor of the bill that will be taken up later this

week, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This legislation ensures that babies born after a failed abortion attempt are given the appropriate medical care to live and are treated as human beings.

Mr. Speaker, every life—born and unborn—is precious, and I am proud to stand here with my colleagues to reaffirm our values—that life is a gift from God, and every baby deserves life.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for his eloquent statements and remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN). General JACK BERGMAN is a retired three-star general of the Marine Corps, and he serves on the Veterans' Affairs, Budget, and Natural Resources Committees.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SMITH for yielding. I am proud to be amongst my colleagues this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of the First District of Michigan who are—I repeat—the voice for those who have no voice.

2018 marks the 45th anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade decision. Since that day, as you have heard several of my colleagues say, almost 60 million abortions have occurred in our country, our United States. Today, this timeframe is an appropriate time for us to pause, reflect, and plan a path forward for the pro-life movement.

The most important question we must ask ourselves is: Why? Why do we stand for life? Why is this cause so important to us? Why do we fight for not only all of our citizens, but for the unborn?

For me, my why is simple: every life—every life—has immense value, regardless of wealth, stature, or fame. Whether you were born in rural northern Michigan or in a large city, we all were put here on this Earth for a purpose: to fulfill God's purpose.

As the father of two wonderful daughters and eight beautiful grandchildren, I know firsthand the joy, love, and inspiration that every single life brings.

Life is precious and should never be taken for granted. As a nation, we must offer hope to those who have no hope. We must remind others of the hope offered by an adoptive family and continue together as the voice for those who have no voice. We must and will continue to fight for those who have no voice.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (JODY B. HICE), who is co-chair of the Values Action Team. It is worth noting that he is part of the team back home that has now been ranked number 8 by Americans United for Life in what they call the "Life List" because of the legislation and the policies that have come forward in Georgia to protect life.

He was a pastor before coming to Congress and has been a leader for religious liberty as well in the House.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, what an honor it is to be here with Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for leading and managing not only the calls but this Special Order this evening.

It is amazing to me that here we come, yet again, on the anniversary of another *Roe v. Wade*, 45 years, some 60 million children who have gone. Along with that is another anniversary, the March for Life, that has been taking place now itself for over 40 years.

I am thrilled that this weekend there will be students, teachers, nuns, pastors, priests, and families from all across this great country marching in the streets right here in Washington, D.C., from the National Mall to the Supreme Court and all across various streets across this country standing up for life. What a powerful thing that is.

When we talk about life, it is not an issue between Republicans or Democrats. This is an issue protecting 10 fingers and 10 toes. It is about protecting a precious heartbeat. Yes, we have been able, in this Chamber, to support and pass some significant legislation like the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. That is a great thing. There should be no taxpayer funds going toward abortion. We have passed the pain-capable bill, another great bill.

I wear this little lapel pin, a footprint in a heartbeat. I am hopeful that we will be able to vote on and pass the heartbeat bill. We have all heard abortion stops a beating heart. It is time now that a beating heart stops abortion; that if a heartbeat can be detected, a baby will be protected. I am hopeful that we will be able to get that on the floor here for each of us to have an opportunity to vote for that.

I am pleased as well that we made the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act. It defunded Planned Parenthood—something many of us have been fighting for for years, for decades—and, in particular, ever since the horror of seeing the videos of Planned Parenthood selling baby parts, it is time that we finally accomplish that.

I just am so grateful for my colleagues here tonight taking a stand for life; taking a stand for what is the greatest, first, and most important right of all, the right given by Almighty God, the right that President Reagan said himself, “without which no other right has any meaning.” So I thank my colleagues for being here tonight for taking a stand.

There is obviously more work to be done. The people of America gave us a united government in this past election and sent us here to stand for the platform that we ran on that includes saving lives.

I want to encourage each of us to stay in the fight and each one watching to stay in the fight. We have come a long way. There is more to go, and, with God’s grace, we will see it happen. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for allowing me the opportunity.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), who is from Wisconsin’s Sixth District. He is a member of the House Budget Committee, the Education and the Workforce Committee, and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his work on the Pro-Life Caucus.

Only 52 years ago, abortion was illegal in this country, just as it was largely illegal throughout our country’s history. It was illegal before ultrasounds which made it so clear to everybody what was in the womb. It was illegal when medical care was a fraction of what it is today. It was illegal when families lived without electricity or running water.

Despite these hardships, the public knew abortion should be illegal.

How have we responded to our material blessings? How have we responded to these abortions? By saying that we cannot afford these children.

I would like to thank Donald Trump for reinstating the Mexico City policy. I would like to thank him for allowing States to not fund Planned Parenthood with their title X funds. I would like to thank him for defunding the United Nations Population Fund. I would like to thank the March for Life people for coming up here this year and reminding Americans about this important cause.

I hope that the American citizens stop and think: if abortion could be illegal only 52 years ago in this country before we had ultrasounds, if abortion could be illegal in the 1800s with minimal medical care when people were living six or seven people in a room in a house without air conditioning and without heat, then how did these people keep abortion illegal and how do we respond to our blessings by saying that we have to have one of the most liberal abortion laws in the country?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is the chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. SMITH for his leadership in this effort for so many decades.

Mr. Speaker, we spend millions of dollars every year in this Nation—in fact, in some cases, billions of dollars—providing healthcare for Americans, feeding Americans, providing housing for Americans, and educating Americans. We do that, Mr. Speaker, because we value life. We value these lives, and so we spend billions and billions of dollars ensuring that there are opportunities for these folks, ensuring that we are protecting these lives and we are doing everything we can to provide a pathway to prosperity, to make sure that these people are healed from their ailments, to make sure that they have shelter, and to make sure that they have food.

Mr. Speaker, under current law, if someone causes a fetus to die, that is a crime in this country. That is a crime. They can be charged for the murder of the mother, and they can be charged for the murder of the fetus.

□ 1945

But there is one exception in the law, and that is an abortion. I don’t understand how in this country we can, on the one hand, say that these lives are so valuable and we are going to spend all these resources on healthcare and many other issues in people’s lives because they have so much value to us as Americans. I don’t understand how we can charge someone criminally if a fetus is killed through some type of crime, yet we provide an exemption or an exception for abortion. A life is a life, is a life, is a life. It either has value or it does not.

This month, as we have the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, it is amazing to think about 45 years. I think it is important that we reflect upon all of those constituents who we have all met; all of those Americans who are the product of a changed mind; the constituents I have met who have told me that their mother, their father changed their mind, and telling me about their lives and the contributions they have made to our community, the contributions they have made to this Nation. All lives have value.

In this Congress, we have passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. We passed the Conscience Protection Act. As other Members have noted, this week we are going to be voting on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which ensures that if a child survives an abortion—that awful situation—they would be given appropriate medical care to ensure that they have an opportunity at life, to ensure that they have a chance, because lives have value.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, I want to continue working with folks on both sides of the aisle, as I often hear people standing here and saying they are a voice for the voiceless. They are a voice for those that are vulnerable populations. This is a vulnerable population. This is a voiceless life that we need to be representing and we need to be fighting for.

I am going to continue working with folks on both sides of the aisle to protect and promote life, the unborn and the born, because our Nation’s most vital resource isn’t found in our economy, in our environment, in our jobs. It is found in our people.

I think so many other policies that we pursue here in this Congress respect that and represent that. This is the one anomaly that we need to continue to fight to continue to fix, because a life has value. We need to continue fighting for the most vulnerable in our society so they have the opportunity to have the same experiences that other Americans have.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON), who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee. He has long pushed for transparency and led a landmark effort on Federal payments to Federal abortions providers. He recently led an amicus brief supporting his State's right not to be forced to fund Planned Parenthood.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and unquestioned leading fighter for all life as the chairman of the Pro-Life Caucus, Chairman CHRIS SMITH. My dear friend has saved millions of lives not just in America, but on every continent on God's Earth. It is a true honor to join my friend tonight to fight for life.

One of America's darkest days is rapidly approaching. Forty-five years ago, January 22, 1973, seven activist judges masquerading as being impartial on our Supreme Court came up with a constitutional right to kill the unborn. In *Roe v. Wade*, these activists create a constitutional shadow, a "penumbra" on the 14th Amendment to make abortion legal. Since that decision in 1973, America's moral values have declined and we have attacked our decency. It reached its high point when videos came out of Planned Parenthood personnel drinking a large glass of wine and talking about selling baby parts.

But America is starting to rebuild her moral fiber. We now have a strong pro-life President in Donald Trump. President Trump has appointed a Supreme Court Justice, Justice Gorsuch, who will apply the laws and not make laws and violate our Constitution. He knows that the word "penumbra" has no business being in a Supreme Court decision.

More and more States are choosing to save lives, instead of taking the lives of the innocent. In a few days, millions of pro-life Americans will come to their Capital to show the world we respect all human life at the March for Life this week. I hope that all the activists who want to kill unborn babies leave their offensive foam helmets at home.

I want to close with two quotes from two people very involved in this issue. The first one is from Norma McCorvey. She is the Roe in *Roe v. Wade*. She died in Katy, Texas, in my district, last February. She made this strong confession:

"I felt crushed under the truth of this realization. I had to face up to the awful reality. Abortion wasn't about 'products of conception.' It wasn't about 'missed periods.' It was about children being killed in the mothers' wombs. All those years, I was wrong. Signing that affidavit, I was wrong. Working in an abortion clinic, I was wrong. No more of this first trimester, second trimester, third trimester stuff. Abortion—at any point—is wrong. It is so clear. Painfully clear."

Mr. Speaker, my final quote is from Mother Theresa. It is short, but says it all about the fight for life. She said:

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die that you must live as you wish."

Mr. Speaker, reject poverty and choose life.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. OLSON for those very strong comments. I feel the same way about his great leadership for all these years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), a member of the Judiciary Committee and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on this issue. I thank those who are sponsoring H.R. 4712.

I was a young man in high school when the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision came down. It ignited a movement to preserve the life of the unborn. My mother and future mother-in-law began working in the trenches to see this pernicious and barbaric practice eliminated. Seeing their example, my wife, my family, and I have worked to protect these little ones for many years. We have worked for pro-life causes in the community, internationally, and in the State legislature.

During my tenure in the State legislature, we passed dozens of pro-life bills. I am pleased to say that, since 2009, Arizona has passed and had signed into law 39 bills promoting the protection of unborn babies. In fact, Arizona was recently named the top pro-life State in the Union by Americans United for Life. Even so, Arizona is not without problems.

I dedicate my support for H.R. 4712 to Aryana Zeitner, whose mother faked a serious illness so that a doctor would perform an abortion at 22 weeks. Aryana survived the abortion, but she was not given any medical attention. Doctors, nurses, and presumably her mother, let her life slowly ebb away. Aryana's life passed after 1 hour and 18 minutes after the abortion was performed. This bill is for Aryana and others who should be alive today.

In another instance, a baby with no name survived an abortion. 911 in the Phoenix area of Arizona received a call from a worker at the abortion clinic indicating that a post-abortion baby was breathing, but the clinic did no more than provide oxygen. The baby passed, dying before arriving at the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I dedicate this bill to all of the unnamed victims of abortion.

Mr. Speaker, if a baby survives an abortion, it is not an abortion. It is a birth. It is inhumane to allow a baby who survives an abortion to simply die from neglect and inattention.

I urge the passage of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, H.R. 4712. I urge leadership to bring H.R. 490, the Heartbeat Protection Act of 2017, sponsored by 170 Members of this body, to the floor for a vote as well.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from

Kansas (Mr. ESTES), who serves on the Education and the Workforce Committee and the Homeland Security Committee. His home State of Kansas was just ranked number five as the most pro-life State in the country by AUL's 2018 Life List. I thank him for his leadership all these years as well.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SMITH for hosting this Special Order on the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. I want to remember the devastating impact on children and women, and to celebrate the sanctity of all human life.

Each and every life is precious, a unique gift with intrinsic value. Furthermore, science is clear that, at just 16 weeks old, a baby's body is fully formed and has fingerprints, and a baby can even make facial expressions.

Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed with three incredible children, each one of them unique with their own special personalities, talents, and dreams. As a father, I am excited to see what impact they will have on the world. Each of them will contribute to society and bring a unique perspective to the world that only they can.

As we approach the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, I am reminded that in the past 45 years there have been over 60 million fewer individuals in the country today because of abortions. That is 60 million fewer people living the American Dream, starting families, farming in Kansas, or going to medical school to save lives. Their fate was determined before they even had a chance to show the world their talents.

In my home State of Kansas, I am thankful for the countless volunteers who assist with educational programs and outreach to ensure that we are becoming a society that values life, even before a child is born.

For many years, my wife and I have been involved with Kansans for Life and have been blessed to work with so many tireless advocates for life. Hundreds of these volunteers are coming here this week for the March for Life.

With 63 percent of Americans now supporting abortion bans after 20 weeks—that is 5 months—I think we are seeing an incredible pro-life generation. This gives me hope, Mr. Speaker, and I am ready to see what kind of impact these unborn children will have on our world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), a pro-life leader who has been a leader in educating members of our Conference about the dangers of assisted suicide. He serves on the Financial Services Committee. He has been, of course, a great leader in defending the unborn and their moms.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, CHRIS SMITH, for his long work in this endeavor.

This past Monday, our country observed Martin Luther King Day. I had

the privilege of participating back home in some events honoring Dr. King.

While reflecting on Dr. King's legacy at one of the events, I recalled decades ago when I first read the letter from the Birmingham jail.

Dr. King explained there are two types of laws: just and unjust.

Dr. King asked: What is the difference between the two?

He answered that a just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law.

To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, Dr. King said: an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.

Defending the natural law principles of the Declaration of Independence is one of the reasons I ran for Congress. The first right listed in the Declaration is the God-given right to life.

□ 2000

This Friday marks the 45th anniversary of one of the most somber days in our country's history: the day that the Supreme Court issued *Roe v. Wade*.

Associate Justice Byron White called this decision an exercise in "raw judicial power," as the court invented a right to abortion that wiped out the laws of all 50 States.

To echo the words from Dr. King's 1963 address at the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court stamped the promissory note of the rights in the Declaration of Independence with "insufficient funds" for the unborn.

As we observe this sad anniversary, let us, once again, restore the promise of our Declaration of Independence's right to life.

I look forward to greeting constituents at the March for Life.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, commend Congressman SMITH for his tireless advocacy in defending the defenseless.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM), a member of Armed Services Committee; the Agriculture Committee; and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so proud to stand with my colleagues and to stand with those who will be marching in 2 days to remove the scourge, the stain, on American history.

Our Louisiana delegation, as you have heard, has a strong presence here. We have a strong presence from Louisiana that will march on Friday: a very young people that get what abortion is. Our great whip leader, STEVE SCALISE, would be here, too, were he not recovering from a surgery. So we wish him the best.

Mr. Speaker, as a Christian, I know that life is a precious gift, and I believe that life begins at conception. As a physician, my oath is to protect all lives, including that unborn child. And, certainly, as an American, I think

abortion violates our Constitution's unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard, tonight, that over 60 million babies have been aborted. Think what they could have become: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, nieces, and nephews—vital parts of our community.

As you heard from my great friend, GARRET GRAVES, who listed some of the bills that we have introduced this Congress, we will continue to do this.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have to continue to put up with this stain on American history. We can do better. We know how to do it. We must end this practice as soon as possible and we must prevent this horror from continuing.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey and all of our colleagues here tonight for standing for the sanctity of every human life.

Mr. Speaker, I was born on January 30, 1972, 357 days before *Roe v. Wade* became the law of the land. Before I came to Congress, for almost 20 years, I defended religious freedom and the sanctity of human life in the courts and the court of public opinion.

We often summarized our conviction on this issue by stating, very simply, what I have said in this Chamber now many times, that this is part of the very foundation of our Republic. It was the British philosopher, G.K. Chesterton, who said one time:

"America is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed."

He said that creed is articulated with "theological lucidity in the Declaration of Independence."

What is the creed?

We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and that they were endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Founders understood that this is essential to who we are as Americans, but, more fundamentally than that, who we are as human beings. They understood that because we are made in the image of a holy God, every single person has inestimable dignity and value. And our value is not related in any way to our race, our socioeconomic status, where we came from, where we went to school, how talented we are, or what we may be able to contribute to society. Our value is inherent because it is given to us by God.

It is for all of these reasons we fight for the sanctity of every human life, we cherish our children as a heritage from the Lord—as the scripture says—and we defend the defenseless. It is our solemn obligation before the Lord, and I pray that we are always faithful in doing so.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding. CHRIS SMITH is one of the leaders in the pro-life movement that we have had not just here in the House, but in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I want to commemorate the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Every year in January, families, religious leaders, and students come to Washington, D.C., and march from the National Mall to the Supreme Court. To me, the March for Life means having renewed hope and faith in our Nation's young people, as I see hundreds, many from perishes just like mine, come to our Nation's Capital to stand for human life.

I want to recognize all of the groups from Illinois, who are traveling to participate in this week's March for Life event, including the 250 young people and chaperones from my Diocese in Springfield, Illinois. As a father of a daughter and twin boys, I want to thank our youth for their commitment to life.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CHRIS SMITH for leading the Pro-Life Caucus and for organizing this evening's Special Order.

This Friday, our constituents from all across the country will arrive on the National Mall for the 45th annual March for Life. Last year's March for Life was one of the first events that I had participated in, here in Washington, after I took office in January of last year.

Hundreds of my constituents had marched down the National Mall. I had the opportunity to meet with them afterwards and hear from them about their hopes for the pro-life movement. They had just come back from hearing the Vice President speak. He had spoken about life is winning here in America. He said:

I've long believed that a society can be judged by how we care for its most vulnerable, the aged, the infirm, the disabled, and the unborn.

Since that day, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this Chamber has taken steps to protect the lives of the unborn.

We passed the commonsense Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, banning abortion after 20 weeks, the point at which we know that an unborn child can feel pain.

We passed the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, ending taxpayer subsidies of abortions, and codifying the Hyde amendment governmentwide.

I was very happy to be part of a body that passed both of these bills and, of course, voted for and supported those measures.

And this week, the House will vote on legislation—the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—requiring medical care be given to any child who survives an attempted abortion,

with strict penalties for those who do not comply with the law.

Voting against this legislation would be unconscionable. A child, made in the image of our Creator and born into this world, should not need additional legal protections requiring medical care if they are born alive after an attempted abortion.

But here we are, continuing our fight for the rights of the unborn and the born. It is a fight worth fighting, and we aren't going to stop.

I look forward to joining my constituents on the National Mall on Friday to raise our voices for those who cannot yet speak. They have our commitment to continue to work in this Chamber to protect the lives of the unborn.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

What an outstanding turnout tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here tonight and participate in this Special Order to celebrate the sanctity of human life and redouble my commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us: the unborn.

I want to thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for hosting this opportunity tonight. He has certainly been a champion of the pro-life moment, and this week marks the 45th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that set constitutional precedent on the issue of abortion.

That decision also ignited the pro-life movement, which was already taking shape.

And this movement will be witnessed on Friday, when more than 100,000 pro-lifers from across the country will come to Washington, D.C. for the 45th annual March for Life. This year's theme is "Love Saves Lives."

And, Mr. Speaker, it surely does.

Thanks to the pro-life movement, abortion rates across the country are at the lowest since 2013.

Proudly, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania remains one of the top protective states in the nation to provide legal protections for human life from conception to natural death, according to Americans United for Life.

From 2015 to 2016, we saw a 3 percent decline in abortions in Pennsylvania, and these statistics reflect important Pennsylvania State laws, such as, the ban on sex-selection abortion.

These figures are certainly welcome news, but the fight is not over and there is more work to be done.

I know this House will continue to work tirelessly at the federal level to put the health and safety of women and children first. Pro-life education and legislative efforts are making an impact on our culture and in the lives of women facing unexpected pregnancies.

We must always be a voice for the voiceless. And we must continue to build a culture that values life and respects mothers and their children.

I am proud to be part of this movement and I thank every individual here tonight for their commitment to this important cause.

Because we all know that "Love Saves Lives."

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I wanted to do, actually, two or three things. Some of this has been bouncing in my head since we were on this floor a few weeks ago doing the tax reform discussion debate, and the number of things that were said that just sort of drive you a little crazy because the math was wrong, or there was sort of make-believe.

For those who have been, shall we say, sleep deprived enough to stay up and watch some of my presentations, which I do every couple of weeks, you know I have a theme that Congress is often a math-free zone. So I thought this evening we would actually do a little math history and also talk about some really great things that are happening.

This is important. Think about the economy right now and what was happening in the anticipation of tax reform and now that tax reform is passed. During the tax reform debate, we would hear arguments, often coming from our brothers and sisters on the left, talking about income inequality.

So a couple of weeks ago, we did a presentation here on the floor demonstrating that if you live in the world of the last decade, where you are only growing about 1.8 percent GDP, and that joint tax and CBO—the people who are our scorekeepers—are saying, "Hey, for the next 30 years, you are only growing about 1.8 percent GDP growth," that crushes people.

If you care about income inequality in our society, the way you solve it is growth. And there are lots and lots of data from leftwing groups, rightwing groups, and academic groups that say that growth is the greatest cure to a society that has actually started to move apart where the haves have more and the have-nots have less. It turns out that occurs when you have a stagnant growth society. It is obvious. Think about the last 10 years. Think about the projections of going the next decade at 1.8 percent GDP growth.

One of the things I wanted to talk about is: if I came to you right now and said, "Let's just drop our partisan hats; you are not right; you are not left;" are you joyful that we are seeing data right now, today, where folks with felony convictions are finding jobs at a rate that has not been seen in decades?

How would you feel when you see other populations that have actually had a really rough decade finding jobs?

Isn't that what we all come here and stand behind these microphones and talk about?

Well, guess what, it is happening. If you look at some of the unemployment data, populations that have actually gone the last decade in a really rough position are finding employment, and there are some amazing indicators.

Early last year, we came here and did a series of presentations on what was happening to the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund. It was collapsing.

About a month ago, we had a meeting with the Social Security disability actuaries. Guess what. All of a sudden we went from the trust fund is gone in about 2 years to, hey, they just added an additional 4 years on it.

It turns out that parts of our society, which would have been heading towards disability payments and, therefore, leaving the labor force, were finding employment that actually worked with their difficulties.

This is great. These are good things. I know in this town of Washington it is just a partisan knife fight all of the time. I understand many of our brothers and sisters on the left believe rage is a way to politically communicate.

I would actually like the math. And what we are seeing happen in our communities and our society for the populations we both care about, good things are happening.

So how do we build policy around here that keeps it going?

The chart I have right here is sort of talking about what the projections were as of October 2017—so fairly recent data—of what was going to happen over the next couple of decades in the amount of our society that would be in the workforce, and you see these lines just crashing and crashing.

And all of a sudden—do you see the little dotted line—that is what we were projecting in 2016.

Then, all of a sudden—do you see the solid line—it is up substantially. And that was the 2017.

What was happening between those 2 years—2016 to 2017—that, all of a sudden, we start to see a substantial hopeful increase in people saying there are going to be opportunities in the labor force?

It was a combination of what this body has been doing in 2017, whether it be a rational regulatory model heading towards the optimism of tax reform.

□ 2015

If you love and care about people, providing opportunities to have your income grow, the ability to save for yourself, your family, your kids' education, good things are happening. How do we keep it going?

So I want to walk through a couple examples out there if you follow the press in our communities. I came across this story just last week in one of our counties in the southern part of Arizona, beautiful area. All of a sudden, there is such a labor demand that our local correctional facility is actually now having demand to do skills training and, actually, employment for