profamily Hoosiers that appreciate his leadership at home and abroad.

But we were especially grateful that the President addressed his message to the issue of jobs. Ever since the last year of the Clinton administration, the economy of the State of Indiana has been in steep decline, with manufacturing jobs exiting the State, exiting the country. President Bush came and said he was in Indiana to talk about jobs. He extolled the leadership of this Chamber last week and called on all of Congress to pass his Jobs and Growth Act, and so do I this day.

□ 1015

We were grateful to welcome President Bush to Indiana, but more grateful still for his focus, putting out-of-work Americans back to work.

TEXAS LEGISLATORS ARE HEROES

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, my Governor, Rick Perry, called some Texas legislative members children, and Speaker Tom Craddick called them Chicken D's. Well, I am calling them heroes. Joe Deshotel, Allen Ritter, Dan Ellis, and Craig Eiland are heroes to the citizens throughout Texas because of their willingness to stand up against the heavy-handed tactics of personal politics.

The Governor and Speaker sent Texas troopers to a hospital in Galveston where Craig Eiland's prematurely born children are being treated. And yesterday TOM DELAY said he was looking to get the FBI involved to arrest Texas Democrats because they refused to put his unconstitutional, gerrymandered restricting plan above an issue like school finance reform.

When a man like Craig Eiland has to go to another State rather than being there for his children, we have gone too far. The sad thing is, Mr. DELAY, you do not need to use the State troopers or the FBI to get those brave Democrats back in Austin. All you need to do is start paying attention to the needs of Texans instead of your own personal political agenda. Mr. DELAY, do not mess with Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). The Chair needs to remind Members to address the Chair and not others.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF LT. COLONEL MICHAEL VIERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Lt. Colonel Michael Viers for his selfless sacrifice in helping to save the life of a little girl in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Ten-year-old Shawna Crawford, an uninsured immigrant child living with her parents in Hardeeville, South Carolina, faced certain death just a few months ago as her kidneys began to fail and her family had no money to pay for the needed operation. Her plight was championed by community leaders Fred Nimmer and David Allgood, along with GSA official Mary Joy Jameson.

JoAnn Coefield of the Second Congressional District's Midlands office was able to find the funds through Federal assistance, but Shawna still needed a donor kidney. Fortunately, Colonel Viers, a Marine stationed at the Marine Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina, stepped forward.

Michael Viers is a true hero. And just as his fellow troops were overseas risking their lives for freedom, he has risked his life to provide a future for Shawna Crawford. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Viers.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

TEXAS REDISTRICTING POWER GRAB

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, there is a light of hope in Texas. There are 51 heroes who have stood up. For so many Texas legislators to agree and walk out demonstrates the depth of their commitment, the strength of their purpose, and the nobility of their cause.

This is not just about a map. It is about democracy and participating and the rights of minorities to have a voice in the process. It is about education. It is about health. It is about priorities that confront Texas. Rather than just waste time on divisive redistricting schemes and pushing on from the Washington level, they have decided to do the right thing and make sure that the priorities get straightened out.

I take pride to recognize Representative Gabi Canales, Representative Timoteo Garza, Representative Ryan Guillen, Representative Mike Villarreal, Representative Carlos Uresti, Representative Ruth McClendon, Representative Roberto Puente, heroes of Texas.

PROTECTING UNBORN VICTIMS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, also known as Lacy and Connor's Law. We have all seen the news stories about Lacy Peterson and her unborn son. As a physician who has delivered over 3,000 babies, I am an advocated of this legislation. Enacting this law would help to protect many who are unable to defend themselves in any way, the unborn sons and daughters of mothers who are victims of trauma.

This bill establishes legal consequences if an unborn child is killed or injured as a result of an act of violence against the mother. Further, it allows the prosecutors to charge the perpetrators with a second offense for the assault on the baby. And unfortunately, in my clinical practice I have seen cases of injury to the unborn child where no prosecution was deemed possible because of the absence of such protection. Federal law recognizes only one victim, the mother, when a pregnant woman is attacked and an unborn child is injured or killed. But 26 States have enacted laws to recognize unborn victims of at least some violent crime during some or all of the period of prenatal development.

This bill would extend protection to unborn children where none currently exists. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the need to pass this important legislation in support of those who cannot help themselves, the unborn victims of violence.

SUPPORT TEXAS DEMOCRATS

(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, today we pause and say thank God that we have at least some members, men and women of the Texas House, men of honor, that work hard, that play by the rules, that stand for what is right. This week over 50 courageous Democrats told the Governor, the Texas Speaker, and the majority leader of this body, enough is enough.

I particularly want to recognize my east Texas representatives, my friends, Barry Telford, Mark Homer, Chuck Hopson, Dan Ellis, and Jim McReynolds. Men of honor. Men of respect. Men of conviction.

Texas Speaker Tom Craddick is unhappy because the Democrats broke his quorum. While Craddick has had time to whine and moan and complain and make up childish names for the Democrats, he has not had time to tell you, Mr. Speaker, one important fact: Mr. Craddick made history in 1971 as a leader of the Dirty 30, 30 Texas legislators who disappeared in protest of a heavy-handed speaker. This is hypocrisy at its worst. Now Craddick has the DPS and the Texas Rangers after the Democrats. The Governor is using the AMBER Alert System to try to find the legislators. The majority leader of the House is trying to get the FBI involved. This is absolutely shameless.

Thanks to Barry, Mark, Chuck, Dan and Jim. The people of Texas are depending on you.