

these students, House Republicans see that July 1 is coming, and with it the automatic doubling of some Federal student loan interest rates.

House Republicans don't believe that that rate should double or that politicians should be in charge of setting them. Weeks ago, Republicans and a few Democrats in the House passed the Smarter Solutions for Students Act, which will not only keep student loan interest rates from doubling on July 1 but will also remove politics from the equation, as well.

But the House can't do it alone. The Senate must act, and the President must lead. Right now, both are failing. In fact, it appears President Obama has completely backed down from defending his original proposal which, like our House bill, offered a permanent solution to the problem. The President is letting the opportunity to build on common ground slip by. Concerned students should ask him why.

20-WEEK ABORTION BAN

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Today, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1797, legislation that would throw doctors in jail for providing constitutionally protected health care. Many of my colleagues talk about less government. Well, here's a place where I agree. This bill takes away the ability of women to make their own health care decisions and attempts to replace the informed judgment of doctors with the opinions of politicians.

Often, there are unexpected complications. Danielle Deaver's amniotic fluid ruptured at 22 weeks, leaving the pregnancy without adequate fluid to continue to develop. Jennifer Peterson was pregnant when she was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. Danielle, Jennifer, and women like them should be able to face these difficult situations by consulting with their doctors. They should not have to worry about whether they're violating an unconstitutional law.

When abortion is made illegal, it does not go away; it becomes unsafe. Let's not play politics with women's health care. Let's focus on prevention and making sure that women have access to safe and legal abortions. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this unconstitutional bill.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING U.S. MARINE CORPORAL ZACKERY WALLICK OF DUNDEE, OHIO

(Mr. GIBBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Zackery Wallick of Dundee, Ohio, who is the recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with the V, the fifth-highest award for his service.

Zackery received this medal for putting himself in great danger in order to protect a fellow wounded marine in Afghanistan in August of 2010. He was serving as a first team leader of a regimental combat team when a grenade was thrown at him and a fellow marine by Taliban forces. Without hesitation, Zackery threw himself on the marine closest to the explosion, shielding him from the blast.

Thankfully, neither of the marines were injured. Zackery's display of heroism deserves the utmost respect, and I'm proud to honor him today. Zackery has been honorably discharged from the Marine Corps and is now considering attending college. He hopes to pursue a career in law enforcement as a parole officer.

PEPFAR 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I had the honor of joining Secretary Kerry and hundreds of advocates to mark the 10th anniversary of our global aids program known as PEPFAR. Ten years ago, when the AIDS pandemic was ravaging many African countries, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents put aside our differences and came together to create the largest, most effective foreign aid program to date.

I'm very humbled to have played a small role in the creation of PEPFAR and proud about the leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus and our chair at that time, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON—even before the world knew about this initiative. And I'm so proud of the role my staff played over the years, including the late, beloved Michael Riggs, whose memory and leadership Secretary Kerry recognized this morning.

To quote from a 2002 letter to President Bush, the Congressional Black Caucus called for "an expanded United States initiative" to "respond to the greatest plague in recorded history." The next month, in his State of the Union speech, President Bush boldly embraced our call to action.

Now, a decade later, PEPFAR's success isn't just measured in terms of dollars spent but in lives saved and communities transformed.

THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to move one step closer to banning late-term abortions by supporting H.R. 1797, called the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

Late-term abortion isn't rare. I was dismayed and disheartened to hear of

the horrors from the Kermit Gosnell trial. Worse, this past month, in my home State of Texas, former employees of the abortionist Douglas Karpen alleged he killed babies born alive.

These acts are inexcusable, immoral and unjustifiable. It's time we got rid of this gruesome and barbaric procedure to prevent future cases like Gosnell's and Karpen's once and for all. The procedure is not only unethical but unessential. There's extensive evidence that unborn babies aborted in this manner are alive until the end of the procedure and fully experience the pain associated with the procedure.

We've got to do the right thing. We must ban late-term abortion. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1797 and protect the value of life, women and unborn babies.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the many mom-and-pop shops and small businesses across the country as we celebrate National Small Business Week. I know firsthand the difference that small businesses make in our communities. Almost 70 years ago, my grandmother purchased a little neighborhood store and proclaimed to my grandfather, "We're in the grocery business now."

Like most small business families, we took pride in what we did. We shared in the trials and triumphs of small business ownership. It was challenging, but it was rewarding. Our grocery store was our family taking a shot at the American Dream and sharing that success with others.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the United States each year. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities—opening new storefronts, training American workers, and manufacturing and selling goods in our neighborhoods. This may be National Small Business Week, but our Nation wouldn't be what it is today without every day being a small business day.

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HONORING THE HARDING FAMILY FOR THEIR MISSIONARY WORK

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to pay respect to Bill Harding and his family, who have served for the last 60 years as missionaries in Ethiopia. In our increasingly self-serving society, their sacrifice on behalf of others is truly remarkable.