

## HONORING SANCTITY OF LIFE

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

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I am often asked why I came to Congress, and I have asked myself that very same question. It is certainly not for the money, and it is not for the notoriety or the scrutiny that comes with that.

Ultimately, for me, it comes down to the honorable purpose of supporting the divinely inspired principles behind our Nation's founding, being a voice for those unavailable or unable to speak.

There is none more vulnerable or unable to speak than the unborn, and there is no more noble cause than protecting or promoting life.

Madam Speaker, I stand today, during this week honoring the sanctity of life, to ask every Member of this body to use any and all influence to return to our Nation's legal environment that promotes life and to return to a cultural environment that promotes life as well. Our unborn would ask the same, if they could.

## MARCH FOR LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, tens of thousands of Americans will rally in favor of life, because we have a moral duty to defend the weakest and most vulnerable. I will have a little more to say later on in the Special Order. But it is my distinct privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), a great leader and a compassionate leader as well.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership over the years on the issue of life.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* this coming Tuesday, I want to bring the real impetus of the pro-life movement to the forefront of civil discourse.

The pro-life movement fights to protect life, from conception until natural death, and we stand ready to support mothers who face the challenges of an unexpected pregnancy. We also know that abortion is immoral and permitting it deeply wounds our society. The cause for life deserves to be heard this week.

Lately, though, there have been nuanced attempts by the left to hijack the meaning of pro-life and impose upon it a Big Government agenda.

We can all agree that the illegal ending of a life through violence is tragic and wrong. The reason the pro-life movement opposes *Roe v. Wade* is because the U.S. Supreme Court case permits the legal killing of our Nation's most vulnerable.

The pro-life movement is at the forefront of human dignity. We know that upholding human dignity requires that people be able to meet their needs for housing, education, and nutrition. However, the public policies that lead to the optimal conditions for human flourishing are worthy of their own debates, so let's leave aside the strawman tactics and have debates on those policies at the appropriate time.

This week, we are talking about the inalienable right to life, from conception until natural death.

To all who are fighting to protect life, know that I am proud of you and behind you 100 percent. As the 46th Annual March for Life takes place in Washington this week, I am sure the country will need look no further than the witnesses marching to the Supreme Court for an accurate understanding of what we pro-lifers are all about.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her very eloquent remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I am horribly disappointed and ashamed that, today, taxpayers remain the top funding source for America's abortion leader, Planned Parenthood.

As an obstetrician and gynecologist, I have delivered thousands of babies from Kansas. I dedicated my career to protecting the sanctity of life, and I firmly and wholeheartedly believe that life begins at conception.

There are countless stories that I could share today, and I can tell you that some of the children I delivered are now in college. Some are star athletes. Some are leaders at their church and in their communities. And some are at the top of their class.

They are nurses and soldiers, doctors and pharmacists, police officers and teachers, clergy and judges. Perhaps most importantly, many are now moms and dads themselves.

I know these stories because, as I travel throughout Kansas, I see the moms, the moms I have delivered, and I see their children. They are now adults leading their own lives.

What no one on this Earth can do is tell the stories of the babies that were aborted and given no chance to share their gifts with the world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. MARSHALL very much for his comments and, again, for his leadership. I am so glad to have him here.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman SMITH for organizing this Special Order today.

Madam Speaker, every year, hundreds of thousands of individuals from all over the country come together for the annual March for Life, marking the Supreme Court decision on *Roe v. Wade*.

As a strong advocate and believer in the Word of God, I believe it is my duty

to stand up for those who cannot defend themselves and lend my voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.

Psalms 127:3 says: "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." That is exactly what they are, a gift from God that should be cherished mightily.

We must do more in this body to fight for the life of these children. I, myself, have cosponsored and supported pro-life bills, but we must bring them to the House floor and always ensure that pro-life priorities are included in any relevant bill we pass.

I am proud to be an advocate for life and a fighter for the unborn, just like the thousands of men and women and children who will be marching along the streets of Washington, D.C., tomorrow. I thank them for their commitment to this important cause.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), a member of the Appropriations Committee from Nebraska One who has been outspoken for the entirety of his career in defense of human life, as well as religious freedom.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman SMITH, not only for his tireless leadership, but his compassionate, passionate voice on behalf of women, saying loudly and clearly, consistently, over the time he has been in Congress, that women deserve better.

Madam Speaker, we live in an age of contradiction. We say that we want peace. We say that we want joy. We say that we want happiness, that we ought to be living in a good and authentic, committed community, and that we ought to uphold the noble ideal of human dignity. But we have to ask some difficult questions. We have to ask why.

Why, in this age of material plenty, is life expectancy in America declining?

Why, in this age of vast and accelerating scientific discovery and technological innovation, is the world still screaming for meaning? Why?

Could it be that we have to be brave enough, that we have to be bold enough, to look and confront our own contradictions?

We say we want community, but do we really care?

We say we want justice, but with certain exceptions.

We say we want liberty for all but, really, only for our own perspective.

Madam Speaker, the reality is, life is hard. Life can be brutal. Life can sometimes be very unfair.

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The reality is we have to face this together.

This is why the demands of community, the demands of justice, the demands of compassion, the demands of liberty say to the woman, no matter how hard the circumstances, what a gift you are and what a gift the unborn