

Even the seemingly benign word “choice” withers under scrutiny. Choice to do what? Dismember a baby, starve a child to death like RU486 does, and then forcibly expel her or him from the womb?

In order to facilitate the baby’s extermination, the pro-abortionists aggressively deny, and they profoundly disrespect, the unborn child. They loudly mock and belittle those who defend a child’s right to life.

Anybody in the pro-life movement knows what that mocking is like. Frankly, that harsh criticism causes us to work even harder and, hopefully, more effectively to try to protect these weakest and most vulnerable among us.

Someday, I truly believe Americans will look back at America’s abortion culture, which has, again, killed, to date, about 62 million babies, and wonder how such a seemingly compassionate and enlightened society could have had that blind spot that could not see the innate goodness and value, priceless, of that unborn child.

As STEVE CHABOT said earlier today, we know that the women are the co-victims. I and my wife and those of us in the pro-life movement do work with postabortive women. We love them. We care for them.

Just yesterday, I met with two more women who are postabortive and talked about the agony that they quietly dealt with for so long. There are now many ministries that try to reach out to them to say: We want you to have a better life, a life of reconciliation and hope. You do not have to suffer alone. There are people who care for you.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) the cochairman of the Pro-Life Caucus.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding to me, obviously, on the eve of the March for Life.

Madam Speaker, let me follow up with what my cochairman has said. It has been 46 years since Roe v. Wade, a generation and a half. There is no question that there have been incredibly significant scientific advances in that time, advances that make the humanity of the in utero child clear and that we have to revisit.

The fact is that science has now put to shame the idea that life developing within the womb is merely a “clump of cells.” Well, I could describe any of us as a clump of cells, too. I mean, I guess, technically, that is what we are. But science now has gone deeper and allows us to show exactly what is happening and when a human being exists.

So let’s ask ourselves: Who exactly is human? It is an important question, because if you are human, you are entitled to human rights, and those rights are guaranteed under our Constitution. It is a critically important question: When is someone human?

Now, science has answered that prettily clearly. At the moment of concep-

tion, when a sperm cell from a human joins together with an egg cell from a human, a new human life begins. Absolutely unique.

How do we know that? Well, in those 46 years since Roe v. Wade has been promulgated, we actually have Nobel Prizes for DNA describing DNA and genetics. We know that, at that moment, a unique human being has been formed with unique DNA.

My gosh, anybody who watches NCIS knows that. Anybody who opens a high school textbook knows that. When are we going to figure it out? Because, at conception, a new member of the homo sapiens species—that is what it is; let’s talk scientific—is verifiable by uniquely human DNA.

From the moment of conception, any test on that life will show it is uniquely human, nothing else. It is not a little chicken. It is not a little frog. It is not a little cat. It is not a little dog. It is a small human being.

Because of that, exactly at this point, we have to insist on that human being’s protection under the law.

This fact is not radical. It is not religious. It is bluntly, clearly, unarguably scientific, because over the course of a human’s development in the womb, there is now what we call ontological change, that is, no change in the nature of that human being. The only change is the change in the size. That is the only difference.

Despite being further along in development, adults are certainly no more human than adolescents, adolescents no more human than middle schoolers, middle schoolers no more human than kindergartners, kindergartners no more human than toddlers, toddlers no more human than babies, and babies no more human than that in utero human being.

We can’t allow the convenience and politics of abortion to obscure science. Humans in the womb deserve rights because they are uniquely human. They deserve human rights.

The science empowers us, and may the Lord, who is the author of all creation, encourage us today on the eve of the March for Life. In the words of the prophet Isaiah: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Tomorrow, let us march and not lose heart for the sake of all the little hearts that are beginning to beat at 22 days after conception who require our advocacy. We must advocate for a reconsideration of Roe v. Wade as soon as possible to allow us to protect all these human lives.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. HARRIS for his extraordinary eloquent remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

RIGHT TO LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2019, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, as a father and a grandfather, I know the love that a family feels for their children, and it doesn’t begin on the day they are born. It starts when you first learn that the prayers have been answered and that a new life is being brought into the world.

As we talk today on this particular subject, a lot of people don’t realize that there have been many things that have occurred in my life and my family’s life that make this a very personal issue.

Thirty-eight years ago, my wife was a junior in high school. I had just left for Marine Corps boot camp. We weren’t married. She discovered that we were going to have our first child.

She had five teachers who thought that it would be a good idea, because she was such a great student, to not ruin her life by having a child. Those five teachers encouraged her to go and receive an abortion. I thank God that she understood the importance of life. That child, who would have been aborted, now serves in the United States Marine Corps and is a major and will probably be a light colonel before long.

□ 1500

He also has a law practice in our hometown. He has raised four children. He is an outstanding citizen. He serves on the county board. He is a respected member of society. He is even studying to go into the ministry. I am so glad of the choice that she made. Her life wasn’t ruined. She might jokingly say: Well, I have still been with you for 38 years.

But she went on and she used her time when we were in Twentynine Palms, California, in the Marine Corps, she actually took credit hours and sent that back to our home high school where she graduated in the top 10 of her class. As a mother, and as a youth minister, and as a business owner, she has shown others by example.

Really, as we move forward and we talk about this debate, there are other concerns that I have, and that is that we in this body and in this Nation need to realize that there are certain questions that come up; such as, When does life begin?

Let me fast forward in our lives. Our oldest daughter, on July 26, 2002, discovered that her twins were in trouble in the womb. Well, actually it was before that. We took her to a hospital in St. Louis. It was just after my son’s wedding, and she and her husband, who had an older child at the time, they discovered that these two twins had what was known as a joint communication, and they were trying desperately to get those babies from 25 weeks to 26 weeks.

But on July 26, we lost Hallie in the womb, which then drove my daughter Kasey into labor, and then we held

Elliana for 1 hour and 35 minutes as she passed. Now, we have had legislation that quite often says at that point, that abortion should go ahead and occur. Well, I have seen what a child looks like at 24 and 25 weeks, and that is not the time that we need to say that that is not a life. I do believe that life begins at conception.

It is my sincere belief that America is only as strong as the willingness to protect the weakest and most vulnerable among us. My family participates in those opportunities to help young women who maybe have an unwanted pregnancy, also to help people who have chosen not to choose life, and also ministers to those who have lost children. My daughter is in that ministry as well through a group called Tender Mercies Foundation of Southern Illinois.

But that is why I fought in Congress to eliminate taxpayer funding of abortions, and to preserve pro-life healthcare providers the right of conscience.

Tomorrow, we are once again going to have the March for Life, which is a pro-life movement that is growing stronger all the time, as it should, as science is proving when life begins. I hope that you listen and I hope that you get involved, and I hope that you understand that there is a need.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Congressman CHIP ROY.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I rise today on the eve of the March for Life as a cancer survivor, as someone who appreciates every day that we are given from the good Lord above as a gift.

I want to recount a story from a couple of years ago that my wife and I shared in "National Review Online". What do you do when the doctor coldly asks whether you would like to terminate your child? Two years ago this month, this became very real to my wife and I and we wrote about it in the article in "National Review".

We received a call from one of our dearest friends. She was pregnant. She asked me if I would be the baby's godfather, but her words of joy were tempered. She then went on to explain a series of harrowing medical concerns, the most significant of which was that the baby might be missing a part of his brain, a part that connects the left and right hemispheres.

She was terrified and she couldn't ask questions quickly enough. Forty-eight excruciating hours later, the MRI was performed and it was inconclusive. She was told to come back again in 2 weeks for another ultrasound.

The next week, her obstetrician, a woman doctor, silently reviewed the file. Then she looked at our friend straight in the eye and asked her if she wanted to terminate the pregnancy.

Now, my friend explained that the doctor had asked her the question in the same tone that she might have

used when she ordered a coffee at Starbucks. She didn't blink an eye. She asked the question in front of her two little boys. She asked without her husband there. She offered no explanation or comfort. It was cold.

The doctor told her she had to decide quickly because she was approaching the 22-week limit, which is as long as you can legally seek an abortion in Virginia.

Our friend's response was a source of pride for us. She told us she almost laughed and then politely responded that termination was not an option. She walked out of that doctor's office and never returned.

In a world where everything and everyone seems to be so sensitive about every word that is uttered, we have completely desensitized abortion. We use politically correct words. One is pro-choice. The pregnancy is terminated because no one wants to say that the baby was killed. But if you are ending an innocent life on purpose, I am not sure what other way to put it.

So how did it all turn out? Her ultrasound was completely normal at 24 weeks. Her baby was born. He is my godson. He is healthy. He came here and he saw his godfather get sworn into Congress.

Choose life. Life is not perfect. But each life is perfect.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this op-ed in its entirety, which was published on January 26, 2017, in "National Review Online", co-authored by my wife, Carrah.

[From the National Review, Jan. 26, 2017]

A MOTHER'S LOVE AND THE MARCH THAT MATTERS

(By Chip Roy & Carrah Roy)

What do you do when the doctor coldly asks whether you'd like to 'terminate' your child?

For many people, January 2017 will be marked by the inauguration of a president and a march on Washington the following day. For us, every January is marked by two phone calls we received in January 2015—and by a very different march.

The "Women's March on Washington" has already been all-consuming on social media. It was billed as an "inclusive" movement with the vision:

We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families—recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

Sounds so caring—until you learn that "inclusive" and "diverse" mean that if you are pro-life, you are not welcome, and if you don't attend or join in this supposed solidarity, you are "anti-woman." Doesn't seem as inclusive, does it?

In deed, it is wholly exclusive. In their zeal to shock and to trumpet a convoluted notion of freedom to have their bodies "left alone," these marchers exclude the bodies of the unborn. What about the rights of an unborn child? What about the safety of an unborn child? What about the health of an unborn child?

Two years ago this month, this became very real to us.

We received a call from one of our dearest friends. Then 32 and already mother to two healthy, wonderful boys, our friend said,

with an air of urgency, "[My husband] and I wanted to wait a little longer to ask, but something's come up and we have to ask now. I am pregnant—and we want you to be the baby's godfather." We were thrilled, but the excitement was tempered by the strange introduction. Here's what she explained to me.

She and her husband, having two boys already, couldn't wait to find out whether they would add another boy to the crew or instead start buying things that were pink. They excitedly drove to the appointment for the baby's 20-week ultrasound to find out. A few minutes into the sonogram, the ultrasound tech excused herself from the room. Immediately, their hearts sank. Something was wrong. It was a long wait. Finally, the radiologist came back into the room and moved the wand around with a blank look on her face. Then, she told our friend to get dressed and come into her office. She explained that the baby might be missing a part of his brain, the part that connects the left and right hemispheres.

She was terrified but couldn't ask questions fast enough. Would the baby survive the pregnancy? Live outside the womb? Were these minor developmental delays or major issues? She and her husband were sent home without answers and told to come back so they could perform an MRI of the baby's brain. The technician thought that the baby might be lying in a position that didn't allow the doctor to get a good view and that the MRI could clear it up.

Forty-eight excruciating hours later, the MRI was performed. It was inconclusive.

They did learn that the condition could range from minor developmental delays to severe cognitive and life-threatening issues, but they wouldn't know the specifics for their child until the baby was born. They were told to come back again in two weeks for another ultrasound.

None of us stopped praying those two weeks. For our friend it was a constant conversation with God. She was scared, but she said that she knew it would be okay. She knew the baby would be okay. She "just knew." She felt scared of the unknown but also at peace, saying, "God gave me this baby for a reason." If the baby needed help, she would do everything she could and God "would help" them. And she would love that baby just like she loves her two boys.

She had a monthly check up with her ob-gyn the following week. Her husband had to work, but she took their two boys with her. They liked going to hear the baby's heartbeat and the checkups were usually routine and quick. She went in to the appointment expecting that her doctor would reassure her and answer more questions than the radiologist had. The doctor—a woman—silently reviewed the file. Then the doctor looked our friend straight in the eye and asked her if she wanted to terminate the pregnancy.

She called us right after that appointment, understandably angry and terrified. Terminate? What?

She explained that the doctor had asked her the question in the same tone she might have used when ordering coffee at Starbucks. She didn't blink an eye. She asked it in front of her two little boys. She asked without her husband there. She offered no explanation or comfort. It was cold. The doctor told her she had to decide quickly because she was approaching 22 weeks (which is as long as you can legally wait to have an abortion in Virginia).

Our friend's response was such a source of pride for us. She told us "she almost laughed and then politely responded that 'termination' was not an option." She walked out of that doctor's office and never returned.

Yes, there may be some issues. She didn't have a perfect ultrasound. But it was her

baby who, she told us, “was growing inside of her, kicking, loving music, moving when the boys spoke toward her belly, doing somersaults when she ate ice cream.”

We all realized that God put our friend in this position for a reason. She has a strong faith. She knew she could handle it, because God was with her. She told us that the baby “would know love, would feel love.” Facing her fear of the unknown with faith and love strengthened her as a mother and a woman. But what if it hadn’t been our friend? What if another woman had listened to that doctor, who made it feel so easy and acceptable to just “terminate” and try again for a “better” outcome.

We use politically correct words . . . The pregnancy is “terminated.” Because no one wants to say that she killed her baby.

In a world where everything and everyone seems to be so sensitive, we have completely desensitized abortion. We use politically correct words. One is “pro-choice.” The pregnancy is “terminated.” Because no one wants to say that she killed her baby. But if you are ending an innocent life on purpose, we’re not sure what other way to put it.

But sadly, even today, more than 3,000 abortions are performed every day in the United States. That is more than 1 million per year. Since Roe v. Wade inserted unelected judges into the question of the beginning of life, more than 56 million babies have died at the hands of abortionists—56 million. Just let that sink in.

So how did it all turn out? Her ultrasound was completely normal at 24 weeks. They just couldn’t get a good read at her 20-week appointment. Her baby was born in May of 2015 and is completely healthy. It was a boy, by the way. None of us—but particularly his loving and courageous mother—can imagine life without him.

This week, there will be another march on Washington: the one that truly matters. This one is to celebrate life, and all are welcome, including the unborn and those who love them.

Choose Life. Life is not perfect, but each life is perfect.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today as we approach the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade to speak on behalf of Americans who cannot speak for themselves.

Our Nation was founded on the notion that every American has a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As legislators, we are bound to protect these rights, especially as they relate to our most vulnerable population, which is why we cannot ignore the fundamental right of an unborn child to live.

While Roe v. Wade may be the law of the land, I am here today because I, along with many of my fellow Floridians, disagree with it. I believe it is incumbent on this institution to debate the definition of life as well as our authority and responsibility to protect it.

As a father, I have the privilege and have had the privilege of watching my daughter grow from a tiny blip on a monitor, to a beautiful baby girl, and now to a strong, courageous young woman, the young woman that she is today; and when I look at her my heart breaks. It breaks for the children whose lives have been and continue to be taken from them just as they are beginning.

These children could have been future doctors, lawyers, Members of Congress, teachers, military servicemembers, anything they wanted. But, unfortunately, because of a court decision made nearly 46 years ago, we will never know who those children would have become.

Madam Speaker, as a veteran, I have seen horrible things. And, yet, I believe abortion is one of the greater tragedies of our generation. I believe, in time, future generations will look back on this era in American history and condemn us for the millions of children that we have allowed to be taken. Because the truth is, each life, from the moment it begins to exist, is a precious person, and therefore, has a fundamental God-given right to live.

So on this anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I stand with my colleagues in solidarity for the lives lost, and I pray for the mothers and fathers that face very difficult circumstances surrounding new life.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for coming to speak.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow, we are going to welcome to this city once again the people who believe in the sanctity of life. They will walk down Pennsylvania Avenue from The Mall and they will be well-behaved. They will be kind. But they will be rising up and letting the people of this United States know that we are concerned about the children in the womb that can’t speak for themselves.

Madam Speaker, over the years of my time in elected office, I have been asked by many people from both parties: Well, what do you know? You are not a woman, and it is a woman’s choice. Well, I am telling you that I hope that no women that I know—and I wish that would never be the case—that they would be in a situation where they are so scared of an unwanted pregnancy that they think that it would hurt their lives.

But my wife, my 2 daughters, my 7 granddaughters—and my hope is that with my 11 grandchildren, I have many, many more great-grandchildren—that they will grow up in a United States that understands the importance of life at its conception, that science, which I believe is now beginning to show what we have known all along, as one speaker spoke earlier, that when that cell is formed and it starts coming together, and then in just a few short hours or a few short days, a heartbeat starts, and then in a few weeks we understand that that baby grows to the point that they can feel pain.

Each one of these items are things that are brought up in legislation of why it is that we need to explain and understand and put into law what truly is life and where life begins.

I don’t blame the courts. I blame this body over the years. I believe God has the opportunity to say when life begins. But I think science has taught us certain clear factors about what life is and when life begins. My hope is that

the American people will not only think about this tomorrow during that march, but they will think about it every day of the year; that they will think about all of the great wisdom that we may have lost in the abortions that have been committed over the last 45 years.

Madam Speaker, I want to say a special thank you to everyone that spoke here today and to the people I represent in Illinois’ 12th Congressional District. I want the people to know and remember what tomorrow is about, and how important these young lives are, and why it is important for us to do our job as laid out in the Constitution, which is allowing life to be protected.

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

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ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. UNDERWOOD). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. This is an important week in history as I was taught in law school that courts do not take up cases to merely give an advisory opinion, that there has to be someone who is actually harmed by some action about which they are suing.

As we know, in the Roe v. Wade case, at the time it was adjudicated, there was no justiciable issue. The plaintiff in that case now publicly states she was used by the pro-abortion groups, she was manipulated, and that she has suffered because of what the pro-abortion groups talked her into. She has dedicated her life to try to undo the wrong that has been done purportedly for her.

So I appreciate my friends’ speaking up. As I said, in my case, I will never forget my child, many weeks early, holding on, breathing rapidly, but doing everything she could to live.

Most of us have seen the in utero photograph of an unborn baby, an unborn child, grasping the finger of a doctor. They want to live. They want to grow. They want to be. They want to know.

Though my child couldn’t see me with her eyes because they weren’t far developed, as the doctor said: She knows your voice. You give her comfort because she knows your voice.

We heard testimony in our Judiciary Committee previously from a doctor who did maybe 1,000, I think he said, late-term abortions. It is difficult to take as he described.

Of course, the female body is not able to birth or get rid of a child without intervention, so if somebody wants an abortion of a child that is further along and is developed, he described—and I won’t use the detail he did because it gets me too emotional.

He would go in with clamps, find something that felt like an arm or a