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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 5, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIANO ESPAILLAT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

ABORTION AND INFANTICIDE ARE NOT WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, abortion and infanticide are not examples of women's healthcare.

Abortion advocates used to say they wanted abortion to be safe, legal, and rare. Today, they want abortion to be free, casual, and for newborns.

It is distressing to see the new levels of disregard they hold for new human

lives and how their language has fostered such numbness to the moral evil of abortion that there is now space in society to openly promote infanticide.

The Reproductive Healthcare Act, RHA, law being celebrated by pro-abortion activists in New York and Virginia's Repeal Act bill, which is supported by pro-abortion activists, legislators, and Governor Northam, are horrifying indicators of that attitude and the spreading culture of death.

This time, pro-abortionists have gone farther than ever before, by their own admission. Their actions fly in the face of the limits of abortion that most Americans support and lay bare the extreme agenda of the pro-abortion movement. Not only are they bent on the systematic removal of any protections for the unborn that exist in law, now they admit that they support infanticide.

The sponsor of Virginia's bill said that a baby could be "aborted," i.e., murdered, as he or she is being born. This should be a moment for reflection on the reality of the atrocities being committed in the name of so-called women's healthcare.

These extreme and disgusting advances by abortion advocates expose the reality of our culture's view of human dignity writ large. Society can't allow these actions to go unchallenged and still believe that the culture supports human dignity.

With their language, abortion advocates have been successful at dehumanizing the unborn and devaluing human life itself. The Repeal Act would further ensure that the life of a child remains unseen by repealing ultrasound requirements and the State's 24-hour waiting period before an abortion. It is as though society's "ignorance is bliss" mentality is a requisite for abortion advocates' agenda to strip unborn life of protection.

Thanks to the tragic decision of Roe v. Wade, abortion can be performed in

the U.S. in all 9 months of pregnancy for any reason related to a mother's health. The RHA preserves and expands Roe v. Wade's guarantees of access to abortion.

In New York, an abortionist no longer need be a licensed physician, and if an abortion is not successful and the child is born alive, the law has an absolutely barbaric provision that ensures the child still dies.

The RHA repeals section 4164 of New York's public health law. That section required abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy be performed in a hospital and that abortions performed after 20 weeks have a separate physician ready to provide medical care for any infant born alive during the procedure.

This repealed section also protected children born after a botched abortion and required records to be kept of the infant's medical treatment. Without section 4164, infants who survive in an attempt to kill them in the womb have no legal right to life and could be denied the care they need to live.

It is clear that the value of life has eroded in our culture. Without a society that questions "what are the rights of the unborn?" New York and Virginia legislators can use their power to eliminate the right to life and promote the idea that life is dispensable, even in the case where a child is viable and the mother's life is not in danger.

Nothing warrants the evil of infanticide, yet calling abortion healthcare has become a widespread and acceptable justification for a woman to choose abortion over life. Meanwhile, supporting unborn life has come to mean being against women's choices.

As a woman and proud pro-lifer, I reject this deceptive language and the false narrative it perpetuates. I also encourage proponents of the New York and Virginia legislation to ask whether these policies reflect a society where women are truly valued or where unwanted babies are indefensible.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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