

Mr. Speaker, we have seen horrific actions in New York and Virginia to allow late-term abortion. This is essentially the execution of a defenseless child after birth. It is unconscionable.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would require a child who is born after an attempted abortion to receive treatment and be transferred to a hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day in America when we have to discuss such a reprehensible act.

Any doctor who would leave a child to die should face the full extent of the law. This bill would ensure that.

We must protect the most vulnerable, and I urge the House to take action on this bill.

IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN ON NOAA WEATHER SERVICE STATION EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, we just experienced our government's longest shutdown. For 35 days in California, nearly 40,000 Federal workers were furloughed and denied paychecks because of the shutdown, and that number included Federal employees at the NOAA weather service station in my district on the central coast of California.

Now, recently, I met with those workers to hear how the shutdown impacted them, and I can tell you that, although they were affected by the loss of pay, they definitely did not lose their sense of service.

For over 1 month, right in the middle of rainy season, with the potential for serious flooding, these public servants didn't get a paycheck. They didn't miss one day of work, not one shift; and that is why, in large part, in our region, we were safe.

I can tell you, from what I saw when I met these employees, these are employees who are not just doing their job for the paycheck. They do it for the weather; they do it for the science; they do it for the job security; but most importantly, they do it for the service to our Nation.

As negotiations in Washington continue, we must learn from, we must be inspired by, and we must be motivated by not just my NOAA employees, but every Federal worker across this country who has that sense of service.

We do that here in Congress. That is how we not only avoid government shutdowns, that is how we should govern.

CONGRATULATIONS COACH DAWN SEILER

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, in South Dakota, we take

great pride in our girls high school basketball, due to the incredible hard work of so many players and coaches.

One of those hardworking coaches is Dawn Seiler, who has been coaching the Aberdeen Central Golden Eagles for 20 years. Before that, she coached the McIntosh Tigers for 15 years.

Under Coach Seiler, the Golden Eagles of Aberdeen have made it to 18 State tournaments. And after her 596th career victory, she is the all-time winningest coach in girls high school basketball history in the great State of South Dakota.

Coach Seiler has inspired generations of talented young women to do their best, both on and, more importantly, off the court.

Aberdeen is proud of their coach, and they should be.

Coach Seiler, congratulations on your historic accomplishment.

HELPING GRIEVING PARENTS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, the death of a child is a loss like no other, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to any parents who face such circumstances, but our current laws leave no time for parents to grieve and begin the recovery process before returning to work.

The current Family and Medical Leave Act allows Americans to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child or the care of a loved one experiencing a serious health condition. We need to extend these same protections to parents grieving the loss of a child, which is why I introduced the Sarah Grace-Farley-Kluger Parental Bereavement Act.

This is bipartisan legislation. I was proud to be joined by three Republicans and two Democrats in introducing the bill. This is a commonsense and compassionate step we should all agree on.

I am particularly inspired by the families of those in whose memory the Sarah Grace-Farley-Kluger Act is named. They have turned the pain of the loss of a child into advocacy on behalf of other families facing the same terrible tragedy.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this bipartisan effort to support parents in the toughest times imaginable.

HONORING JUDGE MICHAEL L. KARPf

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chatham County Superior Court Judge Michael L. Karpf for 40 years of exceptional service to our area's justice system.

Judge Karpf has shown an unwavering commitment to fairness and wisdom during his tenure as a judge.

He has served on the Chatham County State court since 1993, where he has had an enormous impact. Namely, he created the major crimes division, rotating judges and significantly increasing the efficiency in our court system.

His colleagues remember him as a consensus builder who could lead a bench that works well together, an oftentimes unique accomplishment.

Earlier this month, he retired to senior judge status, meaning that he will take cases on an as-needed basis.

I wish Judge Karpf the best of luck and know that the court will be in good hands as his son, Benjamin, takes the role his father had as superior court judge.

FIGHTING FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

(Mrs. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to be joined by Katie Brenny at the State of the Union Address this week, a fifth-generation cattle farmer from Mazeppa, Minnesota.

In order to maintain their farm, Katie and her husband, Ted, work day jobs to afford healthcare and retirement savings, and farm by flashlight in the early morning and late at night.

Like Katie's family, too many hardworking and middle-class Americans face similar barriers to economic security. We should be working in Congress to find common ground and solutions on the issues that affect America's working families:

Affordable healthcare no matter where you live;

Reliable options for you to get to work;

Broadband at home;

Farm policy that prioritizes family farmers; and

The promise of retirement security.

I will work with anyone who has a good idea on these issues when it benefits the lives of Americans. I hope that we take seriously the spirit of collaboration to get results for the middle class.

MARGARET MASEK CELEBRATES 105TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 105th birthday of western Nebraska native Margaret Masek.

A graduate of Gering High School, Margaret has 7 children, 21 grandchildren, and 46 great-grandchildren.

In her 105 years, she has experienced the Great Depression, both World Wars, and the landing on the Moon.

After more than a century of life, Margaret says her greatest accomplishment is her children's education and

enabling them to live their lives to the fullest.

She spent her birthday this year opening birthday greetings from her family living all over the world, including Hong Kong, Fiji, London, Paris, Costa Rica, South Korea, and, of course, Nebraska.

Born on June 11, 1914, she begins each day by thanking God for giving her another day, as we all should.

Please join me in congratulating Margaret on her 105th birthday.

ELECTION REFORM FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition of H.R. 1, legislation that was introduced by the Democratic leadership that they claim is for the people.

Let me be clear: There are some voting and election reforms where I believe Republicans and Democrats can find common ground; however, H.R. 1 abuses taxpayer dollars, criminalizes free speech, and encourages voting irregularities. I cannot support it in its current form.

One of the most egregious provisions in H.R. 1 creates a 6-to-1 government match to small donor campaign contributions up to \$200. This means for every \$200 that a political candidate receives, the Federal Government, with your tax dollars, is giving \$1,200 to a politician's campaign.

Since when does the Federal Government become a congressional candidate's ATM?

This is only one example of how H.R. 1 legislation is not designed to serve the people but to serve the Democratic majority.

This House should work in a real bipartisan fashion to create election reform that the American people deserve, and I am willing and ready whenever my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing and ready to talk.

VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCEACHIN). Pursuant to House Resolution 105 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 840.

Will the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with Mr. SABLON (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on February 7, 2019, amendment No. 11, printed in House Report 116-6, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House Report 116-6.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED).

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, after line 24, insert the following:

“(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall perform outreach to inform eligible veterans of the child care assistance available under this section.”

Page 2, line 25, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

Add at the end the following:

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE.—After the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make publicly available on a Department website notice of the child care assistance benefit under section 1730D of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Such notice shall be easily accessible and visible and shall include a description of the expanded and cost-free child care assistance for veterans, eligibility requirements, and any additional information the Secretary determines necessary.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer and speak in support of the amendment by my colleagues, Congressman ALLRED from Texas and Congresswoman TORRES from California.

Our amendment directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify veterans of the expanded, cost-free childcare services in this bill, and perform outreach to veterans and their families.

Each of us have heard from the women and men who have served and sacrificed in uniform about the challenges that come from seeking access to the benefits that veterans have earned.

Last year, at a veterans' roundtable in Woodland Park, I heard from women veterans that it is not enough for Congress to enact a new provision and think our job is done. We must direct the VA to find the veterans who need help and make sure they know and fully utilize these services.

This straightforward amendment requires the VA Secretary to provide public notification on VA.gov about the program, and to perform outreach to inform eligible veterans. The VA has

significant and specialized resources for our veterans. Veterans in my district rely on services at the Morristown VA Outpatient Clinic as well as nearby Lyons and East Orange facilities.

I had the opportunity to visit the Morristown Clinic last week and speak with caregivers and patients at the facility.

I want every veteran, including the more than 25,000 veterans in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District to know that these VA facilities are there for them. These specialized treatment facilities are part of systems worth strengthening and saving.

Mr. Chairman, we must make sure that childcare resources reach their intended recipients as we work to improve care for our veteran community. Only then will we see veterans coming forward to seek counseling and other medical services, secure in the knowledge that their children have a safe place during their appointment.

Simply put, this important childcare program will not work as intended or have the reach that it could without informing our servicemen and -women that it exists in the first place.

I thank the gentleman from Texas for this amendment, and I wish him and his wife—who is from Montclair, New Jersey—well as they welcome their first child.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Representatives ALLRED, SHERRILL, and TORRES' amendment that would require the VA to ensure that eligible veterans are made aware of childcare assistance available to them through this program via outreach and publicly available information made easily accessible on VA's website.

This program would be no good to any veteran if they don't know that it exists and could potentially serve them. This is a commonsense proposition and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

On a related note, I understand that Representative ALLRED recently left D.C. to return to Dallas for the birth of his son, which is further proof of how disruptive children can be to a working parent's schedule and why this bill is so needed.

I wish Congressman ALLRED and his family my hearty congratulations and send them my best wishes during this joyous occasion.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from