

We brought a bill forward, H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This is a bill, Mr. Speaker, that many wonder why is it even necessary that we need a law to say that if a baby is born alive, outside of the womb, we need to give it the full protections under law.

Many people ask, Mr. Speaker, why isn't that already protected? If a baby is born alive, it should have the full protections of anybody else. And yet, as we see in States like New York and other States around the country, they allow, in those States, the baby, even after it is born alive, to be killed. To me, Mr. Speaker, that is murder, and yet, in many States, they don't have the full protection that all of us enjoy. How could that be, in the United States of America, that a baby born alive can still be killed after it is born outside of the womb?

This issue transcends the abortion debate. In fact, people across every spectrum—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, even people who align themselves as pro-choice—believe it is wrong to murder the baby after it is born alive, and yet it is still allowed. There should be no reason that this is a gray issue.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I will be joining my colleague, ANN WAGNER, the lead author of this bill, to start a discharge petition: an opportunity for every Member of Congress to make their voices heard loud and clear that this bill ought to come to this floor for a full debate and, ultimately, for a vote.

We ought to pass this law, Mr. Speaker. There should be no doubt. It shouldn't be a partisan issue. It shouldn't be an issue that we have disagreement over, and yet we do. For whatever reason, the Speaker will not allow this bill, though, to come up for a vote. We have tried time after time to move unanimous consent to bring this bill to the floor and, for months, that motion has been denied.

The most vulnerable among us should no longer be denied that protection under the law. Mr. Speaker, this bill has to come up for a vote. This bill has to be debated by the people's House.

Why not allow people all across the country to participate in this debate? As they find out about it, the reaction I get is not a debate on political lines, it is shock that this isn't already law.

Every baby born alive, Mr. Speaker, ought to have the full protection under law that is currently provided to all of us. H.R. 962 should be one of the easiest things that we pass through this House, yet, unfortunately, it has become one of the most difficult. But that is okay, Mr. Speaker. We know that it is the difficult things that we come here to do, not the easy, because it would have already been done.

So we are going to be leading the charge today, standing with people all across the country. And, in fact, we are actually bringing in people, Mr. Speaker, who survived an attempted abor-

tion. It happens all across this country. And when that baby is born alive, that baby ought to have the full protection under the law. We will start the process today to ensure that that full debate happens and, ultimately, that the vote happens to pass the Born Alive Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to sign on to this discharge petition.

AMERICANS DEPEND ON CLEAN WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I rise to celebrate Clean Water Week. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of water for our communities, not only in my home State of California, but across the country. Americans depend on clean water for their health, the health of their communities, and the health of the economy.

Our water resources are precious, and every drop matters, which is why we need significant Federal investment in our Nation's infrastructure and strong Federal protections for our Nation's water resources.

We need to protect our waterways, large and small, from pollution; ensure we conserve our water resources; recycle water where we can; and protect our groundwater resources for long-term reliance.

There are tremendous clean water infrastructure needs facing our country. Our communities, large and small, urban and rural, and tribal, as well as our American families are facing great challenges in meeting these needs.

Today, our Nation's network of sewers, stormwater conveyances, and treatment facilities are aging, often very outdated, and, in many places all over the country, not meeting the needs of our communities or water quality standards.

We, in Congress, need to do more, not only to renew the Federal financial commitment to repair, replace, and upgrade our water-related infrastructure, but also to ensure that this work remains affordable to all of our communities.

Today, too many Americans are uncertain whether their drinking water is safe for themselves and for their families. Now is not the time to cut back on the protections of our Nation's clean water. Yet, this administration is proposing to do just that.

For more than 45 years, the Clean Water Act has helped to protect our streams, our rivers, our wetlands, and our lakes, and provided States with the tools to keep our waters clean. This administration has proposed eliminating longstanding protections for small

streams and wetlands, which play a very important role in feeding our drinking water resources. They also help store water during storms and alleviate flooding, which, in turn, protects communities. These small streams and wetlands help recharge our groundwater supplies. They also filter pollution and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Clean and safe water is a very basic human need. Unfortunately, this administration has made it a priority to dismantle the Clean Water Act, regardless of what the science or the law provides. The President's #DirtyWaterRule puts our water and health at risk and must be stopped.

Our drought cycle in southern California continues, even though we have had repeated rain in March. We must continue to conserve. This must be the new norm for us in the West.

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CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERSEALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Easterseals on its 100th anniversary.

Easterseals is a network of more than 70 leading nonprofit organizations that provide local services and support to children and adults with disabilities, veterans, and older adults.

Founded in 1919 in Ohio, Easterseals works nationwide, in almost every State, to help Americans achieve milestones, live independently, and be active members of their communities.

Easterseals employs more than 30,000 professional staff across the country, including therapists, nurses, employment specialists, and direct support professionals who deliver high-quality services.

Over the past century, Easterseals has helped millions of individuals and families by assisting children who have disabilities; helping them access early intervention, including physical and speech therapies, to help prepare them for successful learning; providing in-home and community adult day services for seniors and people with disabilities; helping individuals with disabilities, veterans, and seniors find meaningful employment; and providing camping and recreational opportunities to youth and adults with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Easterseals provides autistic individuals early education, employment, camping, caregiving, transportation, and other services to support Americans of all ages.

The number of children in the U.S. with developmental delays is on the rise. A recent study found that approximately 13 percent of infants and toddlers have a developmental delay. Research has also shown that one in

three children who receive early intervention services will not require special education in preschool.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the first few years of a child's life will lay the foundation for his or her long-term well-being and overall success. That is why I am a strong proponent of Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

We can't guarantee that every child will be successful in life, but we can give them the same access to early educational opportunities. This is just one of many reasons why I introduced H.R. 1695, the Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2019. This legislation renews our Nation's commitment to reducing poverty through locally driven comprehensive approaches.

Head Start and early education programs are operated through community action agencies and promote school readiness through enhancing the cognitive, physical, behavioral, and social-emotional development of children from low-income families. Easterseals specializes in early childhood development where children with and without disabilities can learn together.

Another piece of legislation I am co-sponsoring is H.R. 1878, the IDEA Full Funding Act. This would ensure that individuals with disabilities are receiving an appropriate education.

In the 1970s, Congress promised to cover 40 percent of the extra cost of special education, but we never come close to fulfilling that promise. In fact, current funding remains only at 14 percent of the targeted amount. This bill would mandate gradual increases in IDEA funding to reach the full commitment—40 percent, a commitment made by Congress—by fiscal year 2029 and each subsequent fiscal year after that. Easterseals is also supportive of this legislation.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, three Easterseals affiliates serve 67 counties. They employ almost 700 people, and they serve nearly 27,900 individuals. Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the incredible services Easterseals works to provide to American families.

For the past 100 years, it has leveraged its network of nonprofits to improve the lives of others. In schools, workplaces, and communities, Easterseals has fostered environments where everyone is included and valued, regardless of age or ability.

I congratulate Easterseals for its contributions to improving so many lives over the past 100 years.

LET MY FARMERS GROW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I seldom come to this floor to stand in this well. To me, it is almost a sacred place where the great orators like Webster debated. But I have got to talk about this because it is something that is im-

acting thousands and thousands of people I represent in my district.

In a recent letter from the President of the Missouri Soybean Association, farmers expressed their concerns regarding President Trump's ongoing statements on tariffs and the U.S.-China trade relationships, stating: "Missouri farmers have invested time away from their farm, family, and millions of dollars in developing their foreign markets, and it's imperative that we don't jeopardize these investments. . . ."

At what point do we call on one another to address the inevitable detriment these farmers are routinely placed in under this administration?

In Missouri alone, the restricted access to China, which is the number one trading partner for U.S. soybean farmers, has created a \$2 drop in soybean prices, resulting in nearly \$212 million in lost earnings, over 3,000 fewer jobs, and an estimated \$726.6 million annual reduction in State and local economic activity—for the State of Missouri alone. Imagine the combined impact this has had on other States that are major producers and exporters.

Using America's farmers as collateral in a trade war is wrong, and hard-working farmers, their families, and our communities deserve much better.

Farmers in Missouri and across this country working to not only provide for their families deserve market stability and access to the opportunity to forge trade relationships abroad. They deserve to have the backing of a Federal Government that supports and advocates for their success.

Simply put, farmers deserve not to be caught in the crossfire or become collateral damage in an imposed and impractical trade war.

Farming is a risky endeavor, and Mother Nature may at any time bring drought, flooding, hail, and other disasters. The last thing farmers should worry about is a reactionary trade and policy decision made by the President, whom most of the farmers supported.

Moreover, though farmers have been patient holding out for the situation to improve, each passing day that we fail to take into consideration the interest of American farmers only contributes to a mounting problem that we must not ignore any longer. Enough is enough.

As the Representative of a geographically diverse district that encompasses several rural communities, I fear what a continued, retaliatory imposition of tariffs on China would mean for the farmers in my district: that this is going to hurt.

Now, making a bad decision, Mr. President, is understandable, but not correcting it is untenable and unfertile.

Last Friday, the President decided to hit below the belt with his threats to shut down the southern border with Mexico. A border shutdown would wreak havoc on the U.S. economy. I didn't say this. This comes from just

about every major economist in the country.

A border shutdown is not in the best interests of the Midwest or this country. This is another blow to our farmers, and they cannot afford it. They will be forced to tap out.

Missouri farmers depend on foreign trade to market their crops. In my State, we have an \$80 billion industry called agriculture. When it is disrupted, the whole State is disrupted.

We have the largest export market, after China and Canada, to Mexico. The U.S. shipped \$19 billion worth of agricultural products to Mexico in 2018. Mexico is our top market for corn and our third largest market for U.S. beef.

Missouri pork producers cannot afford the loss of the Mexican market on top of all the financial losses from retaliatory tariffs from Mexico and China.

The very threat of a border closure creates uncertainty and depresses the trade of \$1.7 billion in goods and services, daily, that cross the border.

Missouri's economy has a direct connection to Mexico through Kansas City Southern Railroad.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by just saying we have a 2,000-mile border between the United States and Mexico. If we shut that down, we are shutting down the U.S. economy.

NAZIS WERE EVIL SOCIALISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, America has been the greatest nation in world history. America's standard of living is envied by most. America's military is unmatched. America is a beacon of freedom for all.

Unfortunately, America's foundational principles are under attack—not by a foreign foe, but from within our own country.

Socialist Democrats oppose the rule of law that is essential to peace and prosperity by supporting open border policies that consume hundreds of billions in tax dollars and kill tens of thousands of Americans each year.

Socialist Democrats' spending sprees put America \$22 trillion in debt, thus risking a debilitating national insolvency and bankruptcy.

Socialist Democrats support dictatorial and guaranteed-to-fail socialism over the free enterprise economy that has created our prosperity.

If the Mueller report is accurate, for 2 years, socialist Democrats and fake news media allies used the big lie propaganda tactic to undermine our elections' legitimacy and falsely accuse President Trump of colluding with Russia.

History's most famous evil and horrific use of big lie tactics is by the National Socialist German Workers' Party, or Nazis, for short.

Not surprisingly, socialist Democrats and their fake news media allies recently objected to my quoting Adolf