

Just last week, an 18-year-old woman in Las Vegas was shot dead by her boyfriend while they sat in their car outside of a neighborhood barbecue.

This country has an epidemic of violence against women, which is why I stand here today to ask this body to reauthorize and expand the Violence Against Women Act.

This bill will provide crucial resources to survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. It will invest in education programs that teach young men to stop the cycle of violence. It will provide Tribes with new mechanisms to hold non-Indian predators accountable for preying on Native women. And it will close the boyfriend loophole that allows physically abusive ex-boyfriends and convicted stalkers access to guns.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will save lives, and I urge every Member of this body to support its passage.

HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH "JOEY" COLLETTE

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to mourn the loss of an explosive ordnance disposal warrior.

On Friday, March 22, EOD Sergeant Joey Collette was killed in action in Afghanistan. At the time, Collette was participating in a joint U.S.-Afghan special operation.

Sergeant Collette deeply wanted to deploy overseas. He did all he could and gave his all to serve his country in Afghanistan. He was loved and respected by his brothers in arms.

He is survived by his wife, Caela, whom he had married only 2 weeks prior to deploying, and by his beautiful young daughter.

I offer my most sincere condolences to Joey's family and friends. I ask the rest of Congress to join me in ensuring that Sergeant Joey Collette and his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Sergeant Collette.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

This critical legislation is important not only for survivors, but it impacts all of us. When we are talking about survivors, we need to also look at the root of the problem and the lasting impacts of trauma on the survivors and individuals as a whole. We must acknowledge the impact of adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs.

ACE scores are based on a list of events one can witness or undergo before turning 18, including sexual abuse or death in a family. If a person scores

higher than 4, they are 700 times more likely to develop depression and other negative impacts. Obesity, diabetes, and stroke also become more likely the higher one's ACE score.

Oklahoma's average ACE score is 4.8, significantly higher than the rest of the country. It is no coincidence that we rank at the bottom for health, too.

I am proud of leaders in my own district, like the Palomar Family Justice Center that uses ACE data and addresses trauma in treating survivors. I am thankful for the work of the Potts Family Foundation, which has helped lead the conversation on trauma in Oklahoma and across the Nation.

These models need to be implemented on a wider scale across the country, and I am proud to stand with the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act today.

VOTE ON BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVOR PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, I signed the discharge petition to force a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. 193 Members, including two Democrats, have already signed it. A discharge petition has not received such overwhelming support in the first 24 hours in at least 22 years.

I applaud Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for reintroducing this bill and Republican Whip STEVE SCALISE for filing the discharge petition.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would require that a child who is born alive after an attempted abortion receives treatment and be transferred to a hospital. This legislation penalizes the intentional killing of a child who is born alive.

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

Madam Speaker, this isn't abortion; this is infanticide. Any doctor who would leave a child to die should face the full extent of the law.

Americans deserve to know whether their Representatives stand against infanticide or not. I urge the House to act on this bill. I urge us to choose life over murder.

□ 0915

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MS. BESSIE M. SWINDLE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the life of a great and noble American,

Ms. Bessie Swindle, who will be laid to rest.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Swindle was born in 1939 at a time when she could buy a hat but she couldn't try it on. She was relegated to the balcony of the movie and the back of the bus.

Yet, notwithstanding all of the obstacles that life afforded her, she was a servant to multiple elected officials: two constables and two mayors.

She has been given a day in her honor by Mayor Bill White in 2007.

She was, literally, a commissioner without a commission. She was a council person without a council. She was a lawyer without a license. She was the person who gave hope to the hopeless and help to the helpless.

She lived up to the words of Ruth Smeltzer:

Some measure their lives by days and years,

Others by heartthrobs, passions, and tears.
But the surest measure under God's sun,
Is what for others in your lifetime have you done.

God bless you, dear Bessie. We love you. Your spirit will live forever, and your legacy will continue to change the lives of others.

You made headway when others were making headlines.

We love you.

VOTE FOR THE BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. HARDER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to encourage the Speaker of the House to let us vote on H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. It is more than common sense; it is common decency legislation being put forth to end the barbaric act of infanticide.

Every day, Kansans watching from back home assume this must already be law. There is no way that, in America, it is legal to murder a child who already has been born.

Sadly, in some parts of this country, it isn't common sense; it isn't common decency. In some parts of the country, it isn't something inherently wrong to kill a child who was born alive.

This is murder. It is appalling that it is being protected. This is murder.

Madam Speaker, let us vote.

HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, last week the administration made yet another attempt to strip healthcare away from our families.

Let me be clear: My community in the Central Valley needs more health coverage, not less. We need more doctors; we need more nurses; we need