

infant mortality rates with Black women.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for all that she continues to do. I appreciate that very, very much; and thank her for being here as we kick off this Mother's Day. I am missing my mom. I know the gentlewoman is missing hers because they passed away very close to each other.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, it was very close, very close. It is very difficult coming toward this Mother's Day, but we have to thank them and honor them for giving us life.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for being here and for her support of what we are trying to do collectively here in Congress.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure at this point to introduce another warrior, a champion here in the U.S. House, a member of the Judiciary Committee, Homeland Security Committee, who has continued to lift her voice over and over and over again.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 6½ minutes remaining.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS for gathering us a couple of weeks ago to stand and be counted as members of the Black Maternal Mortality Caucus; and to continue her recognition that if we don't become problem solvers the problems will continue.

So I want to join with my colleagues, and, in particular, Congresswoman ADAMS and Congresswoman LEE, both of whom I knew in the time that they were going through the loss of their moms.

A mom and a mother are always a mom and a mother, so let me, in the name of my late mother, who I continue to remember, Ivalita Bennett Jackson, indicate that we stand here in your name and in the names of young mothers around the Nation and young mothers-to-be.

I don't believe we could be doing a more important task than what we are doing, to not only bring relevance and substance to this question of why Black women, African American women, suffer more with maternal mortality and infant mortality; because we know what happens when that bond is broken by death or sickness, particularly in the infant stages of a young child's life.

So I want to remind us of the beauty of pregnancy, and particularly, those pregnancies that these young women are certainly evidencing, just the beauty of the spirit, the softness of their

faces and the contours of their body, excitement. If you have been around a pregnant expectant mother, meaning expectant of joy and excitement, then you understand.

Should they not live? Should they not live, and should their children, their babies not live?

We have come to find out that Black women are three to four times as likely than White women to die of pregnancy-related causes. A Black baby born today is twice as likely as a White baby born the same day, in the same California city—and I will mention the fact that California has made great strides—to perish before she can take her first steps or experience her first birthday.

One in seven babies are born too soon or too small. We have euphemisms that mask the real impact of the maternal healthcare crisis. Good prenatal and maternity care is critically important for healthy pregnancies and healthy children.

Congresswoman ADAMS knows that we have been on the floor discussing access to healthcare. We know that pregnancy has been described as a pre-existing condition, which means that women, even if they could, could not access good healthcare.

Collectively, we need to make greater efforts to arm the next generation with the right mix of robustness and agility and, I would say, righteousness; that we are righteously indignant that we live in the greatest Nation in the world, and here we are talking about the death of mothers and the death of their infant child.

As I listened to Congresswoman ADAMS speak of her beautiful, taller-than-her grandchild, imagine that she says the healthcare that her daughter had, in spite of the horrific challenges—just think if she did not, or no one had listened to her about the pain in her body or how she felt.

That is one the things that we find with Black women, that, in fact, they are not paid attention to as relates to the pain and medical symptoms that are represented by them. They are dismissed or taken less seriously.

Let me quickly say that, as the senior member on the Crime Subcommittee, I have had the privilege of knowing that crime impacts humanity in many different ways. And so I introduced legislation called H.R. 5130, the Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016.

I am very glad, as I wrote the Violence Against Women Act, that I was able to include the SIMARRA Act in the 115th Congress, but it was proudly passed in H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019.

The SIMARRA Act permits the Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal pris-

on systems for pregnant offenders, many of whom are African American, by establishing a pilot program, a critical stage, and developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates.

The SIMARRA Act helps decrease, unprecedentedly high current infant mortality rates by allowing inmate mothers to provide healthy and safe gestation for their unborn, as well as providing a space for bonding with infants during their first 30 months of life.

It is important to administer effective services for pregnant, incarcerated women and transcend our divide, to protect families and continue sheltering the lives of our most vulnerable children, babies born to mothers in prison.

And although males account for 96 percent of the deaths, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, in 2014, the number of female prisoners who died was 154.

I use this example to simply say, we found a problem in incarcerated women, many of them African American, and we sought to get in the way of that problem by finding a solution, to be able to help those mothers have a healthy pregnancy and those babies be born.

So let me just simply say that I am glad to be on the floor to be with my sisters. I am unhappy to be on the floor because, as we stand here today, some African American mother is losing her life in birth or losing the life of her child. That is how devastating maternal mortality is.

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership, and I am here to stand with her and fight with her, and this caucus is going to help save lives. We are saving lives tonight.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues for being here, and I yield back.

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#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 2, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1222. To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 10, 2019, at 9 a.m.