

In recent years, the rising costs associated with caring for children and aging parents have placed a significant burden on many middle-class families. Today, more than 16 million Americans have joined the ranks of the new "sandwich generation," those working Americans who provide care for both their own children and for their aging parents.

Yesterday, I introduced legislation to provide more tax relief for working families who provide dependent care for their children or parents.

My legislation does two things. First, it would extend the full benefit of the dependent care tax credit to allow more middle-class families to receive tax relief for the child and elder care expenses they must incur in order to work.

Secondly, the bill expands the credit to include all older dependent parents, not just those who live with the taxpayer. This makes it easier for families to care for their loved ones, while providing the flexibility to maintain a living situation more suited to the family's unique needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support for this legislation.

□ 1015

MARK LUNSFORD—TRUCK DRIVER AND DADDY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker: "Just a truck driver and a daddy" is how Mark Lunsford described himself before February 24, 2005. However, that night forever altered the course of his own life. A convicted sex offender snuck into the Lunsford home and kidnapped Mark's 9-year-old daughter, Jessica. For 3 weeks, Mark pled to the American public for Jessica's safe return, to no avail.

A sex offender was captured, confessed to the kidnapping, sexually assaulting, and killing Jessica by burying her alive. Mark's mission to protect our Nation's children from these predators became his life's ambition.

Using the local and national media, Mark has raised the awareness and the need to strengthen the laws to keep sex offenders from harming our kids. He has traveled from State to State campaigning for Jessica's Law, which includes harsher punishments for sex offenders. He was also instrumental in helping Congress pass the Adam Walsh Child Safety Act, which tracks child molesters.

Last night, Congressman JIM COSTA and myself, on behalf of the Victims' Rights Caucus, were pleased to honor Mark Lunsford, this daddy, this truck driver, for his commitment to our Nation's children. After all, children are our greatest natural resource.

And that's just the way it is.

THE TRUTH FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today we will once again hear from the Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, on the prosecutor purge. When it comes to the U.S. Attorney firings in public corruption cases, we have heard plenty of different explanations from the Attorney General and his associates.

What we have not heard is the simple truth. We know many of the fired U.S. Attorneys were pursuing public corruption cases. Contrary to the administration's earlier assertion, we know the decision to fire these prosecutors reached the highest levels of government in the administration and involved Members of Congress and Republican Party officials. So this administration either originally hired incompetent U.S. Attorneys in the first place, or hired competent attorneys but incompetently fired them.

Which is it? Are the public corruption cases that implicate Members of their own party off limits in the Bush Justice Department? Is this blind justice? Democrats have been asking these questions for months and for months, and we have been consistently told other stories. Now the time for misdirection is over. Today we will demand and seek the truth.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, article I, section 2 of the Constitution states that "the House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second year by the people of the several States." It goes on to say: "No person shall be a representative who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen."

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the Constitution and what it says today, this new majority will pass a bill to provide a vote, by law, not constitutional amendment, a vote in this House for the delegate from the District of Columbia.

Now, I support, strongly, voting rights for residents of D.C. The proper way to do that, the constitutional way, is to return residential area in the District of Columbia to Maryland. It respects the supreme law of the land of the Constitution. Even the Democrat chairman, Peter Rodino of the Judiciary Committee in the 95th Congress, said: "If the citizens of the District are to have voting representation in Congress, a constitutional amendment is essential. Statutory action alone will not suffice."

So why would this new majority pass a law so clearly violative of the Constitution? Because they can. It's an ar-

rogance and hypocrisy that the American people recognize, and they are watching.

THE CARNAGE IN IRAQ AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as military leaders were on the Hill explaining how well things were moving in Iraq, news outlets were reporting that 171 human beings were killed at a Baghdad market. The carnage seems to have no end, even as we see endless U.S. troops shipped into an Iraqi shooting gallery.

This Congress has approved a supplemental bill which provides everything the President requested and more. In fact, the bill provides plentifully, but appropriately, for the wounded who return home every month.

The hope is that the President will sign the supplemental as the American public desires. Every opinion poll shows that the American public wants this war to end. Sign the supplemental.

LIFE IS WINNING IN AMERICA

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, despite the best efforts of the abortion rights movement, 34 years since Roe v. Wade, more Americans embrace the sanctity of life than ever before. Yesterday, thanks to the leadership of the Republican Congress and this Republican President, the United States Supreme Court echoed that moral awakening.

I rise to commend the United States Supreme Court for affirming, in a 5-4 decision, the constitutionality of the ban of the barbaric procedure that has come to be known as partial birth abortion. I commend President Bush for signing the bill, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who supported it, and Congressman STEVE CHABOT of Ohio, its principal author.

Life is winning in America. In big cities and small towns, American women are listening and learning. It's not a choice; it's a baby. American women are choosing life as never before.

To all who labor in the cause of life, I say in the wake of yesterday's decision, press on. Your labors on behalf of the unborn are not in vain.

PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD NOT VETO STEM CELL RESEARCH LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE REAL HOPE

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has an opportunity to